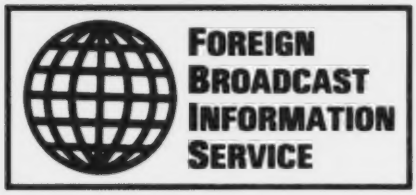

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Latin America

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Latin America

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Central American Presidents To Meet in May

PA1802013489 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] San Jose, 17 Feb (REUTER)—Costa Rican diplomatic sources today reported that the Central American presidents will meet again in Honduras in May but that a specific date has not yet been set.

According to the sources who asked to remain anonymous, the presidents, who met this week in El Salvador, will meet again on Roatan Island off Honduras' Caribbean coast.

The 90-day deadline set by the presidents for drafting a plan to dismantle the bases of the approximately 12,000 anti-Sandinist rebels in Honduran territory will expire in May.

The disbanding of the contra army is linked to the implementation of democratization measures in Nicaragua. These measures include the holding of general elections in February 1990 under international supervision.

This would be the fourth meeting of Central American presidents during the 3-year-old peace process.

The presidents met in August 1986 and August 1987 in Guatemala, in January 1988 in San Jose, and on 13-14 February in Costa del Sol, El Salvador.

Cuba

Further on Visit by Malian President Traore

Discussions With Castro

FL2102134189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Delegations from Cuba and Mali have held official talks in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere.

Malian President Moussa Traore gave an extensive briefing on the situation in his country and on plans for the country's economic development.

For his part, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro gave a detailed briefing on the situation in southern Africa, particularly on the process in southwest Africa that forced the racist Pretoria regime to sit down at the negotiating table and sign the agreements that guarantee the security and territorial integrity of Angola and the independence of Nambia.

The two presidents shared their views on other aspects of the international situation and on the current state of bilateral relations, which they both agreed are increasing. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Accord Renewed

FL2102141889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] The PCC and the Mali People's Democratic Union renewed a cooperation agreement through 1991.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, signed on behalf of Cuba. Sekou Minandiou Traore, member of the Central Executive Bureau and secretary of foreign relations of the Mali People's Democratic Union, signed on behalf of Mali.

Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola also participated in the signing ceremony.

[Begin recording] [Risquet, in Spanish with simultaneous French translation] We are blood brothers, brothers in ideals, and combatants in the same trenches for peace, liberty, the independence of our people, and for the better life that our people deserve. This expresses the meaning of the protocol we have just signed.

[Sekou Minandiou Traore, in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] The PCC and the Mali People's Democratic Union are two brother parties that fight relentlessly for the happiness of their members, progress, and peace. In this way, the visits made by each country's delegations and any signing of a protocol can only be done in the name of sincere friendship, militant fraternity, and the productive cooperation that our two peoples carry out so happily. Comrade secretary,... [recording fades out] [end recording]

Delegation Visits Isle of Youth

FL2102155689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] The chief of state of the Republic of Mali, Moussa Traore, arrived this morning at the Isle of Youth to visit centers of interest. Traore will also meet with African students that are being trained in the country.

Accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and acting president of the Organization of African Unity [title as heard], Traore was received at the terminal of the Nueva Gerona airport by Armando Manresa Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC of the special municipality.

A large group of pioneers and students greeted the Malian delegation with flowers, songs, and dances.

The Malian delegation has been in Cuba since Sunday, 19 February at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Genetics Center Tour Noted

FL2202033989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has accompanied Army General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, on a tour of the Los Naranjos Genetic Center located in Caimito, Havana Province.

During the tour, the visitor and the delegation accompanying him received a detailed briefing on the goals of this agricultural enterprise that dedicates its 45,000 hectares to (?cattle) breeding. The tour consisted of a visit to milking unit No 1, which is composed of [word indistinct] cows, [passage indistinct] and to the area of (?Las Piedras), where buffalo are breeded. While visiting this area, Traore and Fidel extensively discussed the characteristics of these animals and their adaptation to the Cuban climate and terrain.

Traore Addresses Students

FL2102041489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Army General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali and acting president of the Organization of African Unity [OUA], has visited the Isle of Youth.

The African leader, who was accompanied by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, was received by Armando Manresa Gonzales, first party secretary for the Isle of Youth. A representative group of the special municipality gathered at the airport to greet Traore.

The Malian president's main visit to the island was to the Namibian Students' Hendrick Witbooi School. At the school he was able to look at several classrooms and he observed the performance of dances and songs by the various foreign students who study on the island.

At the end of the visit, the president [title as heard] of the OUA and Risquet addressed a group representing the 18,000 students from African, Asian, and Latin American countries who study on the island:

[Begin recording] [Traore, in French with simultaneous Spanish translation] I am sure that the education you are being given on this beautiful island and your contact with the great experience of the courageous Cuban people will allow you to completely assume the responsibilities that await you in your respective countries. [Words indistinct] the important role assigned to you. For you, young African youth, it is a matter of returning to your countries with the [word indistinct] to transform into concrete actions the great experience you have gained on this Isle of Youth. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] In this decisive moment in African history, where the last bastion of colonialism in Africa is about to fall, the presence of the acting president of the OUA is highly significant. It is significant because it is precisely up to the OUA to fight the great battle so that Resolution 435 is strictly applied, so that the Namibian people can attain their self-determination, and so that the only legitimate combatant of the Namibian peole, the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], rises to power for a free nation on the African Continent. [applause] [end recording]

Castro Meets Guinea, Guinea-Bissau Ministers

FL2102144289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, received Commander Jean Traore, member of the Executive Committee of the Military Committee for National Rectification and foreign minister of the Republic of Guinea, on Sunday night [19 February]. Traore presented the commander in chief with a message from Guinean President Lansana Conte.

During the meeting, Fidel and Traore discussed several topics related to the current international situation and bilateral relations. They agreed that the historic ties that unite our countries are progressing.

On the same day, Fidel met with Bernardino Cardoso, planning minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, who heads his country's delegation to the eighth session of the joint intergovernmental commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

Minister Cardoso presented the commander in chief with a message of greetings from his colleague, President Joao Bernando Vieira.

During their cordial and friendly visit, Fidel and Cardoso examined the satisfactory development of bilateral relations. They also discussed several topics related to international affairs.

GRANMA Refutes Fiji Disease 'Hoax'

FL2102183389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] GRANMA today has published an editorial entitled "Is the Empire Undertaking a New Biological Attack Against Cuba?" [camera gives close up shot of headline] The editorial says:

The powerful neighbors to the north have not yet become accustomed to Cuba. They refuse to live with that political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic reality which is Cuba and its irreversible socialist revolution. It can no longer easily resort to the arsenal of military confrontation because times have changed and everything is different throughout the hemisphere. That is why they prefer to pursue infamies of another kind.

The hate they profess for us is obsessive and pathological. Each Cuban success exasperates the symptoms of this true disease that continues to afflict government circles in the United States. The weight of their successive defeats has not been enough to make them reflect on their actions and they insist on their machinations. The last one we heard about originated in the city of Miami on 28 December.

A pen pusher [plumifero] of Cuban origin, whose ties to the CIA are more than known and proved, along with a counterrevolutionary radio station launched a horrifying story on the airwaves. In essence, this is what the journalist, Tomas Regalado, said on WOBA [as heard, call letters are WQBA] of Miami:

Cuba, he said, is hiding something that is catastrophic for Cuban industry and also for neighboring countries and regions, including Florida, which is an important producer of sugarcane. He adds that according to anonymous diplomatic sources in Havana, it has been confirmed that the so-called Fiji disease exists in Cuban sugar plantations. He adds that this serious disease will require sugar production to come to a standstill, the burning of all seedlings, and the postponement of sugarcane planting for several years.

Trying to make this hoax seem credible, Regalado fabricates a MINAZ [Sugar Ministry] technician who is unhappy because the serious event has been covered up. He is anonymous—just like his previously mentioned diplomatic sources—and he calls him a reliable source who says the disease was introduced into the island several years ago by the Cuban Government itself in order to improve varieties. According to the technician, the disease entered Cuba when Cuban officials clandestinely introduced sugarcane varieties from Mexico.

Now, he adds, the Cubans are not capable of confronting the disease alone, due to the lack of technical documentation and experience. He adds that the sources reported that since December 1988, the disease has spread almost throughout the entire island. Since the disease was discovered by a scientist from the Fiji Islands, he says, the scientist was invited to Cuba by the MINAZ to give conferences and advise the Cubans on this matter.

These are the revelations made by the counterrevolutionary station in Miami.

The so-called Fiji disease does not exist and has never existed in Cuba. Furthermore, it has not even been reported anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. It is a disease that appeared in the Fiji Islands in 1886 and it was later reported in Australia shortly before 1890. Currently, the disease is confined to nations of southeast Asia and Oceania. It does not even exist in southwestern Africa.

The Fiji disease cannot be in Cuba unless it has been introduced deliberately, but we will talk about this later on. The revelations made by the counterrevolutionary radio station contain elements that are grossly manipulative. References are made to sugarcane varieties imported clandestinely from Mexico, omitting the fact that the disease does not exist [words indistinct] either, and ignoring the systematic exchanges of sugarcane varities that have been taking place for 5 years between the Mexican Institute for Improvement of Sugarcane Production, IMPA, and the Cuban Research Institute for Sugarcane, INICA. These exchanges also take place as part of the cooperation agreement signed between the two countries, which includes [word indistinct] sanitary controls by each party and strict quarantine measures. The other reference made that is equally false is the one that indicates that the scientist from the Fiji Islands who discovered the disease was invited to Cuba to give conferences and advise the MINAZ on the fight against the disease. The only scientist who fits that description is Mr (Munian Chris Namurti), living in Fiji, who made an official visit to Cuba between 1982 and 1984 to share his experiences on the improvement of sugarcane varieties using the tissue culture technique, which has nothing to do with this disease.

Unfortunately, almost 1 month after the Miami radio transmission an official of the National Scientific Research Center, CENIC, received a telegram from Mr (Chris Namurti) in which he makes reference to a shipment of sugarcane varieties from the Fiji Islands to Cuba and says: We understand you have the Fiji disease. The surprising telegram from (Chris Namurti), dated 26 January 1989, asks his Cuban colleague about the source and extent of the disease in Cuba. He recalls having observed something similar in one of the sugarcane varieties he saw near Havana. The strange behavior of (Chris Namurti) makes one wonder. He came to Cuba in 1984 and saw nothing; now, he recalls having seen something similar and makes an assumption by saying: You have the Fiji disease.

Fortunately, Cuban scientists take their work seriously. It is true that on one occasion sugarcane varieties were imported from the Fiji Islands, as stated by (Chris Namurti). However, since the Cuban envoy did not see for himself when and where these sugarcane seedlings were cut, he had certain reasonable doubts. Upon his return to the country, he expressed his concern to higher authorities and it was decided to burn the sugarcane varieties from the Fiji Islands at the quarantine center in Isle of Youth. Now Mr (Chris Namurti) can know that the sugarcane seedlings were transported to the Isle of Youth by air in a container hermetically sealed (?three times). They were unloaded in the crematorium.

On a later date, something happened which involved a UN organization, the FAO. The FAO regional director in Trinidad-Tobago sent a telex to his offices in Santiago [de Cuba] and Havana, as well as to the main office in Rome, conveying the concerns of an official assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo over the Fiji disease. The official, (Robert Strong), representative of the U.S. Agriculture Department to the (?APIS) quarantine regional office in Santo Domingo, said he had been informed about the possible existence of the Fiji disease in the sugarcane in Cuba—a very serious disease that could be a threat to the Caribbean sugar industry. The FAO telex to its counterparts adds that (Strong) said the information originates from Florida radio broadcasts and he asks for all information on the matter: status of the disease, measures taken by Cuba, etc.

The procedure leaves a lot to be desired and constitutes, at best, truly irresponsible behavior by basing all assumptions on broadcasts by Florida counterrevolutionary radio stations—the (?fact) has reached this point.

Twenty-four hours after the FAO telex was received in the Havana office, the Cuban Government responded categorically to Mr (Agusto Simones Lopez), representative to the organization in Cuba, saying that we can affirm with all certainty that the Fiji disease does not exist in our country; that is why the information has no validity.

What is the objective of this propaganda operation, originated in Miami and supported without the slightest caution or scientific rigor by these other scientists? It is obvious to everyone that in 1989 Cuba is having a

successful sugar harvest, that it expects to have a higher volume than in 1988, that it fulfilled its sugarcane production plan for last year, and that great prospects in the development of sugarcane production are opening in the country. However, it is also known that these achievements have not been by mere good luck, but a result of concerted efforts by Cuban institutions—a total of 22—involved in the integral program for agricultural sugarcane research. The country is carrying out a campaign of genetic improvement and [word indistinct] sanitary protection against diseases that are known to exist in other countries. The areas we are working on are: sugarcane varieties that will be resistant to the main diseases; the expansion of exchanging varieties with other countries; the installation of a new high security quarantine station; a production and certification program of sugarcane seedlings; and other related activities.

Large amounts of resources have been dedicated to the integral program, and the results of a serious, tenacious, and continuous effort by workers, technicians, and scientists can already be seen. The imminent propects of our sugar industry irritate the enemies of the Cuban Revolution, especially as these achievements translate into greater economic possibilities for the Cuban state.

The Fiji disease lie is aimed at creating a climate of distrust and uncertainty over Cuba's possibilities of keeping its international commitments. It is not by chance that the Miami radio transmission, when it mentioned the disease, also added that it has spread to the citrus plantations in Cuba—a harvest that, along with sugarcane, is one of our main export products. Of course, it does not matter that the [word indistinct] insect, by nature's laws, is prevented from contaminating citrus plantations. This piece of nonsense is credible (?only) in the way in which it disinforms and disorients.

The other hypothesis is even more evil, although it is [words indistinct] by the history of attacks made by the United States against the Cuban economy. We, all the Cubans, have fresh memories of biological aggressions such as the porcine fever and the dengue, just to cite two examples. Could it be that Cuba's enemies are now creating conditions to launch a new aggression against our sugar plantations with this Fiji disease?

There are other possible objectives implied in this senseless story: to harm the exchange programs and the development of scientific-technical cooperation relations with Latin American countries and with other sugar producers outside the hemisphere.

Nothing can be ruled out. The treachery and the [word indistinct] of Cuba's enemies go beyond the limits of what is possible. However, it is opportune and convenient that their plans be exposed to the public so that no one doubts the shameless and [word indistinct] purposes that they harbor against Cuba and its revolution. This time, at least, we are very aware of the possible plans [words indistinct] enemies, and that is why it is good to unmask them in time. Any biological aggression of this type will be the responsibility of the United States.

U.S. Refuses To Accept Former Prisoners

FL2002185389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Former Cuban prisoners who have completed their sentences for attempting to leave the country illegally, piracy, sabotage, and other charges have accused the United States of practicing a dirty policy against them by not allowing them visas. Cuba has authorized their departure but U.S. authorities refuse to allow them to enter the United States.

The group of former prisoners say that Washington wants to leave them in Cuba to form part of a fifth column [as heard].

Castro Meets With Educational Leaders

PA2102230689 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Unattributed report on statements by President Fidel Castro at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Polytechnical Center in Havana—date not given]

[Text] More than 4,000 delegates who attended the educational event held a lively dialogue with Commander Fidel Castro. They discussed the issues debated during the seminar. The director of Havana's Cuban-Soviet Friendship Polytechnical Center said that his center is very proud of its 597 students, who were voluntarily elected by the FEEM [Federation of Intermediate-Level Students] from among its best students.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Following this work, this contingent will be performing specific tasks involving the Education Ministry's educational materiel enterprise and the housing construction enterprise. In a matter of days this contingent will continue manufacturing construction-related tools and machinery that helps make the construction workers' work easier. We are talking about saws and tile cutters, for example.

These machines help construction workers. We are also experimentally manufacturing metal molds for the capital's plants for prefabricated projects. These are some of our initial efforts. We want to take advantage of this opportunity to tell you that this contingent of 597 students from the Cuban-Soviet Polytechnical Center is prepared to take on any task that you and the party may assign to us. Thank you. [applause]

[Castro] How many students are in your school?

[Unidentified speaker] Two thousand sixty.

[Second unidentified speaker] From the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Center, the former [words indistinct].

[Castro] Where is it located?

[Second unidentified speaker] It is near the beach, between 54th and 43d (?Streets).

[Castro] Two thousand sixty. How many are from the contingent?

[First unidentified speaker] There are 597. Excuse me, commander, there is another situation, a problem which has resulted from the presence of the contingent at the school. There are many students who were not selected as members of the contingent but who would like to participate.

[Second unidentified speaker] We believe that in addition to familiarizing the students of the Polythechnical Center with industrial tasks, the industrialization process and the use of machines is very important. In the industrial environment they can acquire the spirit of the working class, the discipline and a general idea of the production process. However, due to the high enrollment, they cannot always get jobs in industry. We must also say that as a result of the work conducted between the various secretariats of the party and the ministries—including the Education Ministry—the participation and acceptance of students in agriculture, sugar production, [words indistinct] has radically changed, as well as the recruitment [word indistinct].

[Castro] Are students being accepted?

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, they are being accepted.

[Castro] We were becoming copycats of the capitalists [capitalistas de pacotilla]. We did not want students at the schools... [corrects himself] at the factories because they created problems, according to the previous system. Consequently, the socialist state, which owned the factories, could not use the factories to train students. There was an incredible discrepancy in that fact. That was the situation [word indistinct] years ago, which was one of the many consequences of inventions. Therefore I am very glad with what you have just said and to learn that the report mentions a change in attitude. [end recording]

Later on, Fidel Castro noted the constructive plan outlined in the various [words indistinct] and above all stressed the great importance that the workers' attitude has in achieving national objectives.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Provinces can fight so that those projects are given priority and so that they are included in plans. They can get the manpower [words indistinct].

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, decisions have been hard to make this year, commander, because we have had limitations, really. However, the situation has been hard in all provinces that have contacted us [words indistinct]...

[Castro, interrupting] Do they have the manpower to build this institute?

[Second unidentified speaker] I cannot say whether in all cases they will request manpower and equipment or...

[Castro, interrupting] Did you not say that they are all desperate to begin building schools?

[Third unidentified speaker] They are indeed. All of them.

[Castro] I will take note of that.

[Third unidentified speaker] We really need it, commander. For example, conditions at the Pedagogical School are not good enough.

[Castro] We should not make dramatic statements claiming that education is in so bad a state in this field, because I believe no other field has as many schools. I am referring to the old and new provinces. First of all, the teachers' schools were built at a time when schools were [word indistinct]. In addition to the teachers' schools, you have institutes.

[Third unidentified speaker] Pedagogical institutes.

[Castro] Is that right?

[Third unidentified speaker] That is right.

[Castro] I know that several branches were opened when the plan for secondary school teachers was prepared.

[Second unidentified speaker] They are completely full.

[Castro] Therefore there are more resources and more institutions here than elsewhere in the country.

[Third unidentified speaker] Commander... [words indistinct].

[Castro] Okay, okay. [laughter, applause] What can I tell you? I repeat: We have confidence in you; we are absolutely certain that you will be able to carry out your duties, that [word indistinct] decisive and historical role that will guarantee the future of our people, the firmness and invincibility of the revolution! Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause] [end recording]

Closes Educational Workshop

PA2102143189 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has closed the 12th national workshop for leaders, methodologists, and instructors of the provincial and municipal education directorates and pedagogical institutes:

[Begin Castro recording] This meeting should be called a congress, because a workshop like this is a congress to a certain extent. I have been thinking about how often workshops should be held. They used to be held every year, but I think they should be held every 2 years. This way we would have enough time to draft plans, prepare programs, and implement policies. We will meet again in 1991, when the next workshop will be held. This is very good. We will try to make progress in the next 2 years and consolidate our policy. We cannot rest on our laurels. The country, much less the education sector, cannot rest on its laurels. I am under the impression that we have been developing valuable ideas in this field, are in the process of gaining important experience, and can increasingly rely on more experienced, able, and responsible personnel. The accumulated experience in all these years is something worth considering. I am also under the impression that we are only developing our experience, that we have come of age.

Regarding education, the revolution brought many new things. Our ability to develop our own experience and ideas is what counts. I truly think we are gaining fabulous experience in every field. We are on our way to developing an exceptional educational system. This is in our hands. Our experience can be very useful for other peoples. It would not be exaggerating to speak of an educational power. If we want, we can become an educational power. [end recording]

The 3,000 delegates to the event held a lively dialogue with Castro on the various topics they discussed during this meeting.

Castro Holds Talks With Sugar Exporting Official

FL2002175489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Mr (Jose A. Cerro), executive secretary of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries, GEPLACEA. The two officials discussed views on the activities that this important group is carrying out, especially the possibilities that exist in the diversification of the industry and sugar agriculture and in the area of genetic engineering and biotechnology.

The GEPLACEA executive secretary explained the work the group plans this year and the topics that will be discussed during its plenary meeting, which will be held in Guatemala in October.

Comrade Fidel explained the plans our country has for sugar development, including diversification and the need for underdeveloped countries to make joint efforts to defend their interests in this sector, especially in obtaining fair prices for their export products.

The importance of agriculture and the sugar industry to the economies of regional countries was noted, as was the role GEPLACEA plays in cooperation and regional integration efforts and the need for an active presence on the part of all members.

Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Eduardo [last name indistinct], director of that organization [title as heard], also participated in the meeting.

Education Minister Heads Delegation to Japan

FL2102151689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and education minister, is presiding over the Cuban delegation that departed yesterday for Japan to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. The delegation also includes Dr Arnaldo Torriente Gutierrez, deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government.

Trade With Guyana Lower Than Expected

FL2102122989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Trade between Cuba and Guyana has just not been as high as expected recently. Officials from both countries acknowledged this on Monday at a meeting of the Guyana-Cuba joint commission.

Guyana's Trade and Tourism Minister Winston Murray acknowledged that in the area of trade the two sides did not achieve the target which had been set at the last joint meeting. He said Guyana continued during last year to make efforts to keep up an acceptable measure of trade with Cuba, but because of difficulties in the rice sector—which forms the main export commodity to Cuba—at the end of 1988, the volume of trade had only reached 3 million U.S. dollars.

Mr Murray promised that during this year Guyana will maximize its exports to Cuba.

2 Detained in Car Theft, Death of Man

FL2102155389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police entitled "The Fight Against Crime," during "Progreso" newscast"]

[Text] Citizens Bernardo Perez, unemployed, with a previous criminal record, and a resident of Colina No 242; and Fidel Guste Brito, also unemployed and a

resident of Calle Alta Arriba, No 156, both of whom are from Lawton in the Diez de Octubre Municipality, were detained by members of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] for stealing a car from the parking lot of the Diez de Octubre maternity-infant hospital which resulted in the tragic death of a 65-year-old man.

After taking the car from the health center, the citizens lost control of the vehicle, crashing it into another car that was also parked there. The car then ran onto the sidewalk where the victim was standing. He died from the impact.

In accordance with the investigations conducted by members of the highway police training unit and with information supplied by witnesses, the citizens were apprehended in their respective homes.

At present the citizens are being detained at the police training department until the investigations are complete. They will be placed at the disposition of the tribunal that will judge and sanction them based on the law.

Antigua and Barbuda

Governor General Jacobs Dissolves Parliament

FL2102114689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Antigua's Governor General Wilfred Jacobs has dissolved the parliament, paving the way for March 9 elections.

Prime Minister Vere Bird, with his ruling Antigua Labor Party, is expected to repeat for a fourth term. He staged a long, colorful motorcade through the main streets of Antigua in a political rally on Sunday.

Official Denies RSA Business Connections

FL1802003489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, Feb. 17, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's director of international business co-operation, Keith Hurst, has denied a report that there are businesses here with South African connection. Commenting on the report carried by the Sunday SUN newspaper of Barbados, a regional newspaper, Hurst said he is not aware of any company, director, or shareholder that has interest in South Africa.

"We have no bank with South African connections, neither directors nor shareholders, because these are disclosed in the application," Hurst explained. He added, "many changes...are also disclosed."

He said there is a resume on each director or shareholder and he has no information on anyone being born, residing, or having South African connection.

The Barbados paper carried a report that some offshore businesses in the Caribbean helped South Africa ease the international trade embargo against it.

Haiti

Cabinet Changes, Other Appointments Announced

FL2102183489 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33463, 18-19 Feb 89, p 1

[Text] Shortly after the forum ended and its "recommendations" were submitted to the government, changes in the cabinet were announced. The presidential decree altering the cabinet was read over the national television station last night.

First of all, Colonel Carl Dorsainville was removed as minister of interior and replaced by Colonel Acedius Saint-Louis.

Information Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre remains minister of information.

A new justice minister, Mr Augustin Romain Ceme, was designated. Mr Ceme replaces Mr Gilbert Austin, who has been called upon to fill the vacancy at the head of the Court of Cassation created by the death of this tribunal's president, Mr Pierre L. Jeannot.

Next, Mr Theophile Roche has been appointed minister of planning and external cooperation, a department created to replace the General Commission for (?Planning and Civil Service). The former commissioner for planning, Wilner Dessources, becomes minister of administration and civil service.

Another innovation: the creation of a Commission for Overseas Haitians. Gerard Bissainthe has been appointed commissioner general to this commission, with the rank of minister, and Daniel Narcisse has been appointed assistant commissioner general.

Here is the communique from the Ministry of Information: By decrees dated 16 February 1989, the president of the military government has made the following appointments:
Citizen Acedius Saint-Louis, colonel, Haitian Armed Forces, is appointed minister of interior and national defense.
Citizen Augustin Romain Ceme is appointed minister of justice.
Citizen Wilner Dessources is appointed minister of public administration and civil service.
Citizen Theophile Roche is appointed minister of planning and external cooperation.
Furthermore: Citizen Gilbert Austin is appointed president of the Court of Cassation.
Citizen Gerard Bissainthe is appointed commissioner general, with the rank of minister.
Citizen Hugues Theodore is appointed assistant commissioner general.

Citizen Daniel Narcisse is appointed assistant commissioner general.
As regards the foreign service, the government has requested the acceptance of Mr Jean Ernst Turenne as Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic.
Mr Paul Arcelin is appointed minister-counsellor to the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic.

[Signed] Directorate of Information

Decrees Rescinded; 2 New Ministries Created

FL2102184789 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33463, 18-19 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination confirms that a decree dated 10 February 1989 formally rescinds:
The decree of 31 July 1986 creating the Commission for National Promotion and Public Administration; and
The decree of 7 August 1988 defining the attributions of the Commission for National Promotion and Public Administration.
In place of the Commission for National Promotion and Public Administration is created the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation.

Furthermore, within the government is created:
A. The Ministry of Administration and Civil Service
B. The Commission for Overseas Haitians.

[Signed] Directorate of Information

Further on Government Forum Discussions

Internal Disputes Reported

FL1702134989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Yesterday was the 4th day of the 9 February forum. [passage omitted] Many of the (?stands taken) showed, as they have during the other days, that there are different camps operating within the forum. Despite the fact that they are calling for unity, some accuse others of working to block the work of the forum. [passage omitted] They are also denouncing the wheeling and dealing that is occurring and that will conceivably continue to occur in terms of one or another of the sectors being able to dominate the forum. The bureau also allegedly wants to impose a number of matters and is more in favor of one of the camps than the other.

MNPH's Lahens Comments

FL1702142189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Alphonse Lahens, leader of the MNPH [Haitian Nationalistic and Progressive Movement], has spoken out on this business of the forum. He says that his party—which is absent from the forum, which is not participating in the forum currently going on at the Legislative Palace—is not absent because it does not wish to participate, as many people might think.

Lahens says that the MNPH is a duly registered and recognized political party, unlike certain forum participants—certain leaders who have not received authorization from the Court of Cassation and who nevertheless managed to get in and participate in this forum.

MNPH leader Lahens says that he himself received his letter from the military government, which on 12 January invited him to participate in the forum. However, the MNPH's executive committee was very surprised to see that it did not receive any [follow-up] document to permit its delegates to enter the forum. Their surprise grew greater still when they saw that in the decree calling the forum—a decree (?aimed at) permitting the government to gather a consensus from a large majority of the nation's sectors—the MNPH saw nothing incompatible with the conduct of MNPH members. Thus, they all (?do) everything that is in that decree; therefore, this decree would not have rendered them ineligible to participate.

The press release further says that it is time everyone understood that they must make an effort to prevent democracy in Haiti from starting off on the wrong foot, for there is no real, full democracy without the participation of all sectors of national life.

MNPH continues: The Haitian people and true democrats, independent patriots, will be able to see where responsibility for this problem lies—who is responsible for this. Such behavior is not at all in keeping with democracy, and might even brake [frene] evolution toward a rule of law, which is an indispensable condition for the salvation of the nation.

This is a press release from the MNPH, which is Alphonse Lahens' party.

We remind listeners that Alphonse Lahens is one of the citizens who profferred many threats over television before the 29 November massacres. He is also one of the big Duvalierists who has on several occasions been accused by the public hue and cry occasions of being one of the authors of many of the woes befalling the country today, because of a number of vile actions that have been committed in Haiti during the last 3 years.

5th, 6th Sessions Described

FL1702135489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Today is the 6th day of the forum being held at the Legislative Palace. The work of the 5th day began yesterday with Leopold Berlanger Junior of IHRED [International Research and Development Institute of Haiti] and Rene Theodore, secretary general of the

Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], presenting to the assembly the documents proving they were Haitian citizens. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, the 5th day, was marked especially by discussion of and voting on the recommendations having to do with the creation of an independent electoral council.

Discussion of the ways and means for creating this independent electoral college is continuing today. Yesterday's discussions revealed sharp differences between partisans and adversaries of the electoral institution's autonomy and total independence. Here is Rothschild Francois Jr's report:

[Francois] [Passage omitted] The draft project on the creation of this new electoral body was presented to the assembly yesterday morning by the committee in charge of drafting it. This committee adopted 14 recommendations on the formation of this electoral institution. Four of these recommendations were voted on yesterday by the participants (?at the forum), after lively discussion. The acronym CEP—Provisional as well as Permanent Electoral Council—was adopted by the panelists.

Article 5 as proposed by the committee, having to do with the role of the CEP, was rejected in favor of Article 191 of the Constitution of 1987, which stipulates that the CEP is in charge of supervising in a fully independent manner all electoral operations throughout Haiti until the results of the balloting have been proclaimed. The CEP also drafts the electoral law, which it submits to the executive for the necessary follow-up.

The electoral council's attributions were the object of much discussion. Certain forum participants said they would like close consultation between the CEP and the nation's Justice Department agencies.

Jean Claude Roy of MOVELH [Volunteer Movement for Free and Honest Elections] feels that elections will never be possible in Haiti without the collaboration of the three branches of government.

[Begin Roy recording] The problem, gentlemen, is not the institution. It is not the government! We all agree that elections are not possible in Haiti without collaboration by all branches of the government—executive and other!

The point is, we must find competent, reasonable leaders and advisers for this institution—people who really want to accomplish the task for which this institution is being created. [end recording]

One of this committee's recommendations—which will surely be greatly debated today—is Article 6, which stipulates that the electoral institution, through its council, will serve as a supreme electoral tribunal, with responsibility for ruling on all controversies in connection with candidacies for the Presidency—as well as on the appeals of all rulings handed down by lesser CEP agencies. This recommendation will be discussed today. However, Edouard Francisque, leader of the political party Union for the Revival of Haiti, who is a former member of the Duvalierist government, is already pronouncing himself against this article:

[Begin recording] [Francisque] Thus, there must be safeguards [garde-fous] against this CEP in order to avoid another tragedy such as the one we have already seen in the past.

[Reporter] Safeguards?

[Francisque] Safeguards. That is, for example, let us say, organic laws defining the competence of this tribunal—how to lay a matter before this tribunal. Also, the different degrees of competence must be distributed within this court.

Next, since the right to defend oneself is a sacred, indefeasible, inalienable right, a justification for the decision simply must be provided!—so that he who feels his rights have been encroached upon can appeal the CEP's decision before the ordinary courts. If not, the CEP is simultaneously both a party to the legal action and the judge—both makes the laws and executes them, and then hands down rulings without having to provide justification for them—it is, in short, infallible. Thus the CEP condemns you without you even being able to appeal! [passage including reporter's question omitted]

Precisely, Article 291 is badly written. That is the tragedy of the whole thing—for one cannot condemn someone to lose his civil and political rights unless the person has already earlier been sentenced to death, personal restraint, or penal servitude or to a loss of civil rights [peine afflictive ou infamante], and there [words indistinct]

The people who wrote the Constitution are not jurists. They are people who have not studied law. They committed bad blunders [betises] that go against all the teachings of doctrine and jurisprudence.

[Reporter] (?Which also means) that the population committed an act of stupidity [betise], because the population ratified this Constitution on 29 November.

[Francisque] It was put up for ratification by the population in a very emotional, very passionate, context. [end recording]

Edouard Francisque, a former member of the Duvalier regime, says he is in favor of shelving the Constitution of 1987, which he says was ratified at a moment when passions and emotions were running high—an argument used by former President Henri Namphy last year in his speech announcing the temporary shelving of the Constitution following the 19 June coup d'etat.

[Begin Francisque recording, in progress] ...and that this Constitution—which is deceased, dead—be shelved, outright; and that the future be opened to all this country's intellectual tendencies [familles spirituelles], so that they may compete [concourir] and participate in the elections. You will never have peace in this country as long as certain categories of citizens are excluded! [end recording]

The other committee, which is in charge of making general recommendations to the military government, worked until 1800 yesterday evening. Its report will surely be given to the assembly this morning.

This forum on the creation of this new electoral institution, which is being attended by 28 civic, political, and union organizations, is to end next Friday. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Meanwhile, the second committee, in charge of making recommendations to the executive, today presented to the assembly a dossier calling for the formation of a government of national coalition capable of satisfying the demands of the masses and leading to honest elections.

Coalition Discussions Noted

FL2002161589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The work ends today for the forum which began on 9 February with a view to creating an institution in charge of organizing elections in Haiti. While awaiting Rothschild's report on the work of the forum's last day, let's go back to yesterday, when the recommendations on the formation of a government of national coalition dominated the discussions. Discussion of the main articles in connection with the creation of the electoral institution also ended yesterday. The penultimate day at the government forum on the creation of an electoral institution was a stormy one. [passage omitted]

Marc L. Bazin, head of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], whom we interviewed in connection with this day, says he is in favor of a national coalition government—but following the organization of elections:

[Begin Bazin recording] The MIDH thinks that a coalition is necessary after the elections. I think we were among the first—if not the first—to say in 1986 that the future of our country requires a union in the government of the political families that really want a liberal democracy; that really want economic progress, an improvement in the living conditions of Haitians, a development in the human resources and human capital of our country; and that really want social justice. We are currently being ruled by a de facto military government, and we don't really see what good a government of national coalition would do before the elections—especially since it has not been clearly proven how representative the political forces on the political scene are and especially since the current government has not expressed a desire for such a government. I think that it is extremely incoherent on the one hand to maintain that we don't want to go to elections under General Prosper Avril because we don't trust him and, on the other hand, immediately turn around and say that we are ready to form a coalition government with him! [end recording]

At the end of yesterday's session, other proposals regarding the general recommendations to the military government were formulated by the forum participants. Edouard Francisque of the Union for the Revival of Haiti would like to see the government organize other forums on topics of concern to the population, such as agriculture and the deterioration of the environment. Claude Roumain of the MIDH announced that his party would this morning submit to the forum's executive bureau a memorandum on the emergency measures the government should adopt in order to relieve the population's suffering. Daniel Narcisse would like to see the term—government of national coalition—withdrawn, and proposed that the forum recommend to President Avril that he work together urgently with all the democratic forces to reach a political consensus on the basis of a broad coalition of the nation's political and civic forces based on a national emergency program accepted by all. [passage omitted]

'Consensus' Reached on Coalition

FL2002162689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Report by Mobile Unit 20—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The assembly just a few minutes ago took a vote on the general recommendations to be made to the military government. There were many problems yesterday in connection with idea of forming a government of national coalition. [passage omitted]

The assembly has reached a consensus. Instead of a government of national coalition—at the level of the cabinet, of course—the assembly proposes to the government that the democratic forces be once again assembled, and that these forces will then choose representative people capable of being a part of a cabinet of national coalition. [passage omitted]

The reports [of the forum's two committees] will be submitted to Prosper Avril's military government at the National Palace this afternoon by the members of the forum's executive bureau. [passage omitted]

Political Leaders Cited

FL2102205289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The work ended yesterday for the forum held to create an electoral institution. The 21 [as heard] political and union leaders who participated in the

forum, held 9-17 February at the Legislative Palace, recommended to the chief of state the formation of a transitional government of national coalition based on a program reached by national consensus. [passage omitted] Here is a report by [Metropole reporter] Rothschild on yesterday's end to the forum:

[Rothschild] [Passage omitted] After heated argument over this formula for a coalition government, a consensus was reached. The forum participants require that the Avril government, given the serious situation Haiti is confronting, immediately contact all the nation's democratic forces (?and) political parties in order to obtain the consensus necessary to form a broad political and civic coalition to prepare a national emergency program. Such a coalition, reflecting the participation of the representatives of this coalition in political power, will restore peace and ensure the government credibility necessary for democratic change and the proper unfolding of the electoral process.

The panelists also feel that meetings with other political sectors must be organized to discuss matters of immediate priority in other forums—to which the government could invite diverse political parties (?and) organizations interested in Haitian problems. These forums will permit the elaboration of a program of national consensus—to be carried out by a transitional government of national coalition [un gouvernement de coalition nationale de transition]. [passage omitted]

Rene Theodore, head of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, talks to us about the lessons he learned from this forum.

[Begin Theodore recording, in Creole] The main lesson is that there is much reticence, much reserve, among the different political sectors. The different political sectors even have contradictory desires. Some want presidential elections right away. Others feel that the problem of the country's condition is the primordial problem. In any case, however, because of the very fact that the man in the street was listening, participating, thinking, and talking about the forum and (?came to support the idea of) a coalition government, everyone at the forum—even those who wanted elections held right away and who wanted nothing other than elections—was unable to remain deaf to the public hue and cry, to what the population was showing it wanted through the radios, through meetings, and through what was being said in the streets. In the last analysis, the people triumphed at the forum.

The future of the political sectors? Well, it is going to be a future of concerted action [konsertasyon] and of coalition. And if we remain true to ourselves [konsekan], it is a future of permanent discussion of Haitian matters, in which we are all so passionately interested. [end recording]

Jean-Claude Lebrun of the CATH-CLAT, which is the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin-American Central Organization of Workers, one of the three union federations participating in the forum, also learned some lessons:

[Begin Lebrun recording, in Creole] Well, it allowed me to gauge the competence and abilities of the political leaders present at the forum with me. It also allowed me, as a union leader, to see who I am up against, who is only interested in elections, and who is interested in the typical problems of the working class, of the workers in general, and so forth. And not only did people talk, but as they talked, from their declarations, we could feel them out, see where they stand.

In this connection, we also saw who was only after the presidential seat and who was interested in the problems of Haiti.

We were also able to see, by participating as a union federation, that if we are to come up with a viable political solution to the crisis in Haiti, it cannot be something decided by any one man. We have to do it together, by sitting down together at a series of [word indistinct] forums like this, a series of concerted actions like this, in order to arrive at a number of basic elements to permit us to unblock the crisis in Haiti. [end recording]

Twenty-eight [as heard] political, civic, socio-professional, and union organizations participated in this forum, which ended yesterday afternoon.

Daniel Narcisse of the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces stresses his satisfaction with the way the forum went, and urges the participation of political leaders absent from this first forum in future discussions of the problems of Haiti.

[Begin Narcisse recording, in Creole] The main lesson that I have learned from the forum is that nothing is ever totally in vain. Before the forum, the situation was extremely serious. There was much conflict. Well, we managed to come up with a consensus that even portends the emergence in Haiti of a political coalition. [passage including reporter's question omitted]

First of all, everything we came out with at the forum are things the leaders who did not participate were defending. There is nothing we came out with that they were not in favor of. Thus, they will surely agree with these decisions.

Second, since there are going to be other forums, we think that these leaders will attend in the future so that the work we do can be even more representative—more representative because an even broader political sector will participate in it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Claude Roumain, the MIDH's [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] political director, draws a balance sheet of the forum for us:

[Begin Roumain recording, in Creole] We of the MIDH are satisfied with the way the forum went—first of all because there were people who thought this forum would not even be possible, considering all the problems that arose in connection with its preparation. We were in favor of participating. Thus, we are pleased. We are satisfied with the results too, because the work got done. Also, everyone followed the work of the forum—over Radio Nationale and through the reports of the different radio stations and the newspapers [words indistinct] forum. They were able to see that matters were debated, but that we managed to reach a consensus on the formation of the electoral institution that respects the spirit of the Constitution of 1987, as we of the MIDH had hoped.

The forum also discussed general political matters, and it was made clear that there is a consensus that the government should take a series of measures aimed at restoring the population's confidence.

Of course, there are certain points, such as the matter of a government of national coalition, on which a consensus was not reached—on which we were unable to come out with a clear idea as to what we now mean by a government of national coalition. Nevertheless, we think that the recommendations made and submitted to the provisional executive government are valid recommendations and recommendations that will allow us to begin the electoral process. Thus we are very satisfied with the holding of the forum and with its results. [passage including reporter's question omitted]

As for lessons, we learned that different political, civic, and socio-professional organizations are capable of sitting down and reaching an understanding, even if there are differences among them at the beginning. The forum showed that, with serenity and with the feeling that we absolutely must get the country out of the crisis it has been in since 7 February 1986 and even earlier, [we see that] concerted action must be taken, that dialogue must be established in Haiti. The forum showed us that we can indeed come up with positive results, and it also allowed a climate of confidence to begin to be reestablished in Haiti. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Police Rescind Warrants; Mesyeux Urges Protests
FL2002163989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A Port-au-Prince Police communique says that the Port-au-Prince Police, responding to instructions it had received from Justice Department authorities, is informing the public that the search warrants issued for citizens (Idli Cameau), Jean Auguste Mesyeux [executive secretary of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH], Gabriel Miracle, (Noe Jean Jeanty), Marc Aurel Henry, Jean Robert Champagne, and Eddy Volel in connection with the explosion on the Champ de Mars on Sunday 5 February 1989 under the Ciment d'Haiti reviewing stand are hereby rescinded on the order of Colonel Georges Valcin, chief of the Port-au-Prince Police.

After this communique was issued, we contacted Jean Auguste Mesyeux by telephone. Mesyeux thinks the Haitian people should continue to mobilize anyway. He also thinks that strikes and demonstrations must continue to be organized.

[Begin Mesyeux recording] Many, many people had begun gathering to demonstrate. Due to the very fact that the police dispersed the demonstrators, we think it was a success; every time the Haitian people need to demonstrate in order to defend their rights, the very fact that they have the will to do so and that the government (?opposes) this always constitutes, I think, a failure for the government—and it leads the government to do even more stupid things [betiz]. The government thus unveils itself before the people's eyes every time.

So, regarding the recent strikes: As you will recall, CATH called for two strikes—which were observed throughout Haiti, and even in Port-au-Prince. As you know, Port-au-Prince is, you could say, a cosmopolitan city. It is a city that has people of all ilks in it; it is the bastion of repression. It is in Port-au-Prince that they [not further identified] can organize themselves and pay people to take to the streets. Thus, the fact that the strike was only partially observed in Port-au-Prince does not mean that the strike was not a success in Port-au-Prince. Even though it was only partially observed in Port-au-Prince, we noticed that it was observed by many sectors.

And when there is a strike in a country, it affects the government, whoever that government may be. It affects the government even in developed countries, so you can imagine how it affects a government that is (?at present) waiting, asking and waiting to see if it will be given a little something, a (?pittance), [words indistinct].

So, this means that if the Haitian people ask for the Avril government to resign... [changes thought] It [li] doesn't have any other means. I think that this is the most powerful of means anyway, for when a people organizes itself and stamps its foot in anger, no one can stand his ground before it.

And if the Haitian people were not divided, the way they are; if the Haitian people understood their rights; if they (?knew their strength), no government could come and disrespect them. No one could come and take advantage of their extreme poverty and ignorance in order to exploit them. It is in that sense that we say that the struggle continues. The Haitian people are already mobilized in the four corners of Haiti. There are places that

have indeed not yet gone into action, such as the Grande Anse, the Southwest, the South, and the central plateau. We'd like to ask them what they are waiting for.

At the same time, we must salute the people of Gonaives and Petit Goave, who have begun assuming their responsibilities—because before Jean-Claude [Duvalier] left, that is how things started: in Gonaives. Gonaives began shouldering its responsibilities; and this spread to the rest of the country.

We think that next week [ke semenn demen an] the government's political future will be very somber. [end recording]

We remind listeners that nine organizations and political parties have called for a general strike to begin on 20 February with a view to forcing the Avril government to put an end to all (?its) macoute initiatives against the Haitian people. They are asking the Haitian people to protest in the four corners of Haiti, by means of popular demonstrations, against the application of the recommendations made by Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, against the acts of repression by the Avril government, and against other acts being committed by many section chiefs in the four corners of Haiti.

The KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity] has already expressed support for this movement to rise up [mouvman leve-kanpe]. [passage omitted]

We point out to listeners that the KID press release was written before the latest measures were taken—before the release of Eng Rockefeller Guerre and Dr (Sylvain Jolibois) and before the latest police communique rescinding the search warrants issued last week for seven leaders of unions and associations in Haiti.

The RDC, Christian Democratic Assembly, says it supports the Monday 20 February march. The RDC also asks all its members and sympathizers to mobilize peacefully together with the Haitian people until General Prosper Avril leaves.

The RDC again asks that the government resign and it once again reiterates to Gen Prosper Avril the (?determination) of the entire nation—writes the RDC—to have Avril submit his resignation to the nation's (?institutions and) democratic opposition.

That is the position of Eddy Volel's RDC.

Report on Government's Interim Health Plan

FL1702141589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The military government of Haiti has decided to have health centers in the Port-au-Prince area open from 0800 to 1800 as of next Monday, 20 February. This has been decided by the Ministry of Public Health and Population within the framework of the interim health plan set up by the Haitian military government. [passage omitted]

Thus, all these health centers will henceforth be open from 0800 to 1800. [passage omitted]

That was a press release from the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination that we just read for you.

Jamaica

Manley Assesses Parliament, Opposition Roles

FL1802002089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1856 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17, CANA—Prime Minister Michael Manley, whose administration plans to construct a new parliament building for Jamaica, says he wants to revitalise the institution to again make it the "hub" of Jamaican democracy.

Manley also says that his new government, completed Thursday, wanted to explore with the opposition ways to support the constituency work of parliamentarians and government funding of political parties to make them less dependent on private financing.

The prime minister, whose Peoples National Party (PNP) won general elections here on February 9, spoke after Thursday night's swearing-in of the final 12 members of the 19-member cabinet, including a minister without portfolio with a responsibility for parliamentary affairs. Manley said the appointment of Dr Ken McNeil to oversee parliamentary affairs was of significant importance in light of what his administration wanted to do over the next five years. Manley said his government was determined to make parliament a "dynamic hub of democracy".

Added Manley: "Dr McNeil is going to have an enormous agenda, along with the person who is going to be the speaker, to revitalise parliament to make (it) the place where, through the committee system, ministers are really brought to account..."

Backbenchers, he said, should not merely rubber stamp decisions by ministers.

The previous parliament had only members of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) because of Manley's boycott of general elections in 1983. Manley stayed away from the election over a quarrel about the voters list and the failure of the government to implement agreed electoral reforms. His government was conscious of the models of parliamentary organisation, where "parliaments are not just places that debate and vote, but are places where the

most serious and dynamic and on-going attention is given to the formulation of legislation and the development of policy," Manley said.

Manley has repeatedly talked of the possibility of government helping to fund party secretariats to develop research departments and organisational capabilities and in providing matching funds in election. These were some of the things that would be on McNeils agenda, he indicated.

"...We have to explore with the opposition ways in which, perhaps as is done in the United States, government support can be given to actual elections so that the whole electoral process is not entirely dependent on the contributions of individuals and corporations," he said.

Kerr Calls for Accord Against 'Illegal Guns'

FL2102172989 Bridgetown CANA in English
1525 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 19, CANA—James Kerr, the retired judge who policed the campaign code of conduct for last week's general elections here, has called for an agreement between the political parties to help rid Jamaica of illegal guns.

Kerr at the weekend told life insurance executives that there was need for "a disarmament pact" between the ruling Peoples National Party [PNP] and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP]. "There is still too many guns in too many irresponsible hands," said Kerr, adding that this should be high on the agenda of any bi-partisan discussion on crime.

New Prime Minister Michael Manley last week said he would consider an amnesty for illegal gun holders, who turned them in, but said that he first wanted to discuss the issue with opposition leader, Edward Seaga. Manley has said that his government would be seeking a bi-partisan approach to crime and violence here, and has talked about establishing a permanent committee to include government and opposition members.

The prime minister has also appointed former National Security Minister Eli Matalon as his adviser on the subject. Matalon will be paying significant attention to drug trafficking, which has seriously affected Jamaica, the new administration has said. The smuggling of marijuana aboard ships, incurring high fines from the United States, forced two lines to stop moving cargo out of Jamaica, badly hurting the island's exporter business.

But there is also a high level of criminal violence, especially in Kingston's urban slums, and a high level of shootings. Some of the street gangs are loosely aligned to political parties, operating in areas considered to be the "zones" of either Manley's PNP or Seaga's JLP. These gangs were mainly responsible for the more than 700 deaths in the violent 1980 elections.

Although the parties consistently denied any links with gunmen Manley and Seaga last August signed a campaign code of conduct that not only called for a tempering of rhetoric but bound their parties against providing guns to supporters. Police said that 13 people were killed in the election campaign, and 108 injured, including 31 who were shot. Most of the violence took place in traditionally volatile communities.

Kerr said that last August's peace accord should have been accompanied by calls for "the disarming of the thugs." This might have helped in a further reduction of violence, he said. He believed, however, that a stage for a new era of political goodwill had been set here by Manley's modest acceptance of his election victory and Seaga's gracious acceptance of defeat after eight years as prime minister.

OPEC Approves $5 Million Housing Loan

FL1702160089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1534 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 17, CANA—Jamaica and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fund for international development have signed an agreement for a loan of U.S. 5 million dollars to help finance an emergency low-income housing project following the devastation of Hurricane Gilbert in September.

A statement from the fund said that the works supported by the project should protect the rehabilitated housing units from similar problems in the future.

The loan is the sixth from the OPEC fund to Jamaica.

St Lucia

Prince Charles Arrives for Holiday Celebration

FL2102115989 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Britain's Prince Charles arrived in St Lucia yesterday. He represents the British monarchy during tomorrow's celebrations for the island's 10th anniversary of independence. He was accompanied by a 12-member delegation, including King Constantine of Greece.

The prince's plane was greeted by hundreds of flag-waving school children and thousands of onlookers. In Castries Harbor, five visiting warships offered a 21-gun salute.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Cited on Economic 'Recovery,' Unions

FL1802002189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1904 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 17, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson says that the country is well on the way to recovery. Robinson made the comment after the Senate voted in favour of a government plan to cut public sector salaries by ten per cent.

The prime minister's projections for the economy, now that the bill has been passed, are that "the unemployment situation will gradually be dealt with, the suffering of the population will be progressively relieved, and there will be expansion in the economy."

He said despite opposition at every turn from the trade unions, the nations parliament had acted responsibily: "It is not the prime minister, it is not even the government, it is the constitutional representatives of the people...that have spoken overwhelmingly."

Robinson made a commitment to the unions to seek to meet in two weeks time but he said the government has already stated its views and was backed up by its technical officers, including the governor of the Central Bank. Robinson's gripe with the unions was that "most of the positions the union representatives adopted were political." He complained that "the union movement is now being taken over by politicians and they are not prepared to have any accomodation with the government."

Trade Unions React to Proposed Pay Cut

FL1802004189 Bridgetown CANA in English
2033 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 17, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's public sector trade unions are striking back at a proposed ten per cent cut in state sector salaries which has already got the nod of the country's parliament. The Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA) on Thursday filed a constitutional motion in the high courts, and the Public Services Association (PSA), which previously tried the high court route, says it will be mobilising its members towards a general strike.

The one-day strike is being planned by the country's labour movement against the 1989 budget and ensuing government economic adjustment plans. The PSA action follows a meeting of its general council and membership on Thursday after its failure through lobbying and in court to block passage of legislation to make the 10 per cent cut.

The legislation, passed on Tuesday by Senate and due for final approval in amended form by the House of Representatives Friday afternoon, also postpones for two years implementation of a pay hike ordered by the industrial courts last July.

TTUTA's application seeks a declaration from the courts that the decision to introduce the Reduction of Emoluments Bill is null and void. The constitutional motion also seeks a conservatory order blocking Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and his agents from implementing the provisions of the bill pending hearing of the court case.

The motion is to be heard on February 27—likely to be a tight squeeze between the time the bill is made law through final presidential assent and the time February payslips are made up.

The TTUTA motion, field in the name of a north east Trinidad teacher, Candace Chin Choy, claims that the new piece of legislation, when made law, is an attempt to legitimise an unlawful breach of contract, is not in line with the spirit of the republican Constitution, and destroys the collective bargaining system.

"With the ten per cent deduction in my salary, having regard to my expenses, it will be virtually impossible for me to exist," Chin Choy claimed in her affidavit.

Trade unions from the sugar, oil, and port industries met on Monday night to complain about government's overall economic adjustment programme.

Second No-Confidence Motion Turned Down

FL1802155289 Bridgetown CANA in English
1450 GMT 18 Feb 89

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 18, CANA—Speaker of the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives, Nizam Mohammed, has turned down a request for a second motion of no-confidence in Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson claiming that the parliamentary debate could lead to "tedious repetition. Opposition leader, Patrick Manning, filed the motion on Wednesday.

It was the second such motion within a year complaining about the handling of economic and political affairs by Robinsons two-year-old administration.

"The speaker is of the view that all the 'grounds' submitted by you and the facts in the preamble to the motion have been dealt with in great detail in the House over the past few months during this session and that every conceivable opportunity was provided to all members for detailed consideration of these matters," the letter to Manning sent on behalf of Mohammed by House Clerk, J.E. Carter, said.

The speaker's letter, dated Thursday, said the issues of economic management, rising crime and unemployment, threatened social instability and the fall in living standards had been brought up in the House at "every conceivable opportunity."

Examples of these he cited were parliamentary debate on the finance bill, the budget debate, and the bill to cut public sector salaries. During all these debates, Robinson in particular came in for heavy criticism from both the official opposition People's National Movement (PNM) and four former ministers in Robinson's government.

The speakers letter said that only the mismanagement accusation was fundamental—the others being "merely consequential effects."

He added that a private motion on crime was also already before the House for private members days.

Should it be allowed, he will undoubtedly be faced with well-founded objections of "tedious repetition" and "discussion on matters already decided upon during the current session," the letter said, citing the various House regulations.

Robinson's National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) came to power in December 1986. It has been faced with the continued decline of the economy and internal bickering.

Salary Cut Receives Presidential Assent

FL2102164089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2016 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 21, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government's controversial bill to cut public servants salaries by 10 per cent is now law. The government sought presidential assent for the legislation shortly after it was passed in parliament, according to Junior Finance Minister, Selby Wilson. Wilson said the bill got presidential assent, the final stamp for a piece of legislation in the twin island republic, on Friday night. Wilson had told CANA on Friday that it was too late to implement the cut this month since many February salaries have already been made up. The cuts will start in March. On Friday afternoon, the bill had gone through its final vote in the House of Representatives. A Senate amendment has extended the pay cut to all members of parliament. The bill also postpones for two years payment of a July 1988 Industrial Court pay increase award.

According to the schedule of the bill, those taking a 10 per cent pay cut are ambassadors and other principal foreign representatives, all members of the public service including the teaching, judicial, police, prison, and fire services, all hourly, daily and weekly rated government employees, defence force members, staff, and Tobago House of Assembly staff. Judges salaries are not affected. The law applies to the core of the countrys 65,000 public servants in a bid to balance the government's recurrent spending.

In first announcing the cut, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson had complained that state sector salaries accounted for 85 per cent more than government earned from its key oil sector. The main teachers union, the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA), is challenging the legality of the legislation in a constitutional motion beginning next Monday. TTUTA says it will seek a conservatory order blocking the government from implementing the cut pending hearing of the motion in the San Fernando courts.

Further on Visit by Panama's Solis Palma

Comments on 'Unjust' U.S. Moves

PA2102122589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2237 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Feb (DPA)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said here today that George Bush's arrival at the White House has brought no change in the tense Panamanian-U.S. relations.

Solis Palma, en route to Japan to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral, stopped in Mexico City today to talk with his Mexican counterpart, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana.

In statements upon his arrival at the local airport, Solis Palma said the U.S. aggression against his country has grown worse during the last few months, with "unjust sanctions in violation" of international laws.

Solis Palma added that the United States owes Panama $175 million for the use of the canal and has frozen an undetermined amount of private bank deposits. He admitted that the economic boycott has caused a 20-percent drop in Panama's gross domestic product.

After pointing out that Panama will not take "a single step backward" because of the external pressures, the head of state—who will complete 1 year in government on 26 February—defended General Manuel Antonio Noriega's tenure at the Panama Defense Forces.

"One cannot and must not let another country impose authorities," he told reporters.

He also offered "broad guarantees" to candidates in the presidential elections of 7 May but reasserted that he will not allow participation by forces supported from abroad.

When questioned about Panama's exclusion from the so-called Group of Eight, Solis Palma said this resulted from an inadequate assessment by some of the member countries of the group and that none of the members can impose conditions for Panama's return. He expressed the opinion that the group has changed course.

On other subjects, Solis Palma described as positive the agreements reached by the Central American presidents at the recent summit in El Salvador and said the agreements resulted from the negotiating process launched by the Contadora Group, of which Panama is a member.

More on U.S. Relations

PA2102150689 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1332 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] We will not give up the Panama Canal, even if we have to resort to force, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said yesterday at the airport. The president made a 16-hour fuel stopover in Mexico prior to leaving for Japan to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral. He said the only way to solve the foreign debt problem is the stand adopted by Mexico. However, he stated that all Latin American countries must form a common front to renegotiate the debt in favorable conditions. He insisted that despite U.S. harassment, Panama is in the process of recovering.

The following is an exclusive and important Imevision interview with the controversial president, who has an also controversial general by his side, General Noriega. The following is the interview with Manuel Solis Palma, who describes what has been happening in Panama, which has been the target of harassment during the past year:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] It will soon be 1 year that you have been in power in Panama. What is the prevailing situation in your country?

[Solis Palma] I believe we have been able to sort out to a large extent the effects of the aggression. We have left the U.S. orbit, which had been the pattern determining our country's economic, social, and political behavior. I believe that based on this, the Panamanian people—the country, the Panamanian nation—are right now in a very positive awakening, even though the Panamanian [as heard] Government is withholding approximately $22-$25 million monthly that belongs to the Panamanian state; it is withholding this amount in the U.S. Treasury or in a trust fund or special accounts under the order of the ambassador appointed earlier to Washington, who has not been recognized by our government.

[Reporter] Is this from canal tolls?

[Solis Palma] This amount is from canal revenue, taxes due from U.S. companies operating in Panama, and from Petroterminales, a U.S. company that has not paid the taxes or our dividends—we own 40 percent of the shares, and the Americans own 60 percent.

[Reporter] During the worst part of that crisis, there were even rumors of an armed invasion. Has this possibility been ruled out?

[Solis Palma] We believe that possibility has been reduced, at least, to a minimum. Perhaps the possibility of an armed aggression was never very serious. However, we are enduring an extremely effective aggression that seeks to completely destabilize the government and antagonize the masses against the government—to antagonize the people against the government. Under these conditions, the United States seeks to achieve its goal without assuming the stigma of an armed aggression against a weak and defenseless government.

[Reporter] Mr President, could you say that the pressure is continuing and has not stopped? How are you coping with the situation with the new Bush administration?

[Solis Palma] So far, since 20 January, I would say the statements made by State Department are much wiser than the statements made by the State Department during the Reagan administration. However, there is no basic change; I would say there has just been a change of style. There has been no essential changes. Sincerely, we feel that the problem of the military bases is behind all this, more so than the canal issue. The United States does not want to accept that the government is willing and determined to comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which call for the return of the military bases and the canal on 31 December 1999. [end recording]

Guinean Foreign Minister Stops Over for Talks

FL2102192389 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1927 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Since it has agricultural and mining potential, Guinea wants to have closer commercial relations with Mexico, said Guinean Foreign Minister Jean Traore upon arriving in this capital. Traore is here to meet with his Mexican counterpart, Fernando Solana Morales.

The diplomat stated that Guinea and Mexico have a common past, but that the two nations will require political agreement to begin relations in an integral manner.

In commenting on North-South talks, Traore stated that he believed that the interests of the countries in the southern hemisphere are different than those of the countries in the northern hemisphere, which could lead to difficulties in negotiations between the two.

Traore noted that many countries in the southern hemisphere defend their interests from countries in the northern hemisphere. This will not permit true unity between the hemispheres.

Traore also stated that Guinea, which is in the center of the Nonaligned Movement, is fighting for strengthening South-South talks as a step toward achieving better North-South relations. [sentence as received]

The Guinean foreign minister will continue his trip to Japan today, where he will attend the 24 February funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

Pemex Exploring Offshore Oil Near Veracruz

PA1902032089 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Feb 89 pp 5-A, 36-A

[Summary] Pemex is searching for oil in the Chachalacas basin off the coast of Veracruz to determine the oil-producing potential in the Gulf of Mexico, the Faja de Oro, and Tuxpan waters near Veracruz.

Pemex reported that between 1982 and 1988 it discovered 67 oil fields in the area, of which 44 produce oil and 23 produce natural gas and condensates. In the past few years, Pemex has discovered nine of the so-called "supergiant" oil fields, which are known as Cantarel, Maloob, Ku, and Abkatun in Campeche; and five in the Chiapas-Tabasco area, known as Bermudez, Agave, Cactus, Paredon, and Iris-Giralda. In addition, Pemex discovered 14 "giant" oil wells, 9 of which are located in the Campeche Bay area and 7 in the Chiapas-Tabasco area [numbers as published].

International Reserves Down 50 Percent in'88

PA1802230489 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 11 Feb 89 pp 39, 40

[Summary] In a report published on 10 February and entitled "Relevant Aspects of the Mexican Economy in 1988," the Mexican Center for Private Sector Economic Studies (CEESP) reported that Mexico's international reserves fell from $16 billion to $8 billion in 1988 because of skepticism over the results of the Economic Solidarity Pact (PSE) and a peso devaluation prompted by capital flight.

According to the CEESP report, lack of confidence in the government's ability to cut the inflation rate and the peso devaluation caused a 50-percent decline in reserves, the introduction of very high real interest rates, and a large budget deficit, all of which had an adverse effect on the country's economy.

Unemployment Rate Ended at 4 Percent in'88

PA1702182789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Feb 89 pp 1, 15

[Summary] The Mexican Planning and Budget Secretariat has reported that the unemployment rate increased to 4 percent of the economically active population by the end of 1988. The report adds that most of the unemployed people are women, who have less job opportunities in our country.

Belize

Venezuela's Carlos Andres Perez To Visit

FL2102161789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1411 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Feb 21, CANA—The new president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, will be visiting Belize as part of a tour of Central America, Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel has announced. The announcement did not say when and for how long the Venezuelan president will be in Belize. Prime Minister Esquivel, Foreign Minister Dean Barrow and the leader of the opposition Peoples United Party George Price, were in Venezuela earlier this month for the inauguration of Perez.

Environmentalists Buy 110,000 Acres of Land

FL1702005889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Feb 16, CANA—A group of environmentalists including the Audubon Society in the United States has bought a large chunk of Belize. Sources close to the group said the 110,000 acres in the forested northwestern area of Belize cost 3.6 million U.S. dollars.

The land bought by the group of American, Canadian, and European environmentalists was part of a 700,000 acre block originally purchased by the giant Coca-Cola Foods Limited and three partners in 1985.

The Coca-Cola plan for the region ran into heavy criticism from environmentalists, who had complained that the forested area was being stripped.

Plans for the forested region include forestry management, small scale agriculture, the conservation of wild life, and natural history tourism.

Conservationists say they are seeking 6.7 million dollars to develop the area.

Costa Rica

Officials Confirm Arms Smuggling to Panama

PA1702142289 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The Intelligence and Security Directorate's [DIS] Deputy Director Rodrigo Chavez has reported that the case of arms smuggling to Panama has become complicated. An arms cache was found in Coronado just over a week ago and now DIS officials have found more high-powered weapons and documents that show Misquito Indians were being recruited in our country to be sent to Panama. The persons arrested when the arms cache was found in Coronado were Jose Manuel Echevers, Eduardo Wilson, and Eduardo and Julio Esquivel Peralta. These people presently are in the San Sebastian penitentiary. Officials have not been able to arrest any other persons linked to this case.

Based on statements by one of the persons arrested, DIS officials returned to the place where they had confiscated the arms cache just over a week ago. When they got to La Maquina Street in the San Rafael de Coronado area, they went to the place where Panamanian Echevers planned to build a coffee-processing plant. DIS officials used trained dogs and metal detectors to find 5 fragmentation grenades, 10 grenades for grenade launchers, and a large amount of ammunition. The officials thus confirmed arms smuggling was indeed being carried out.

DIS agents proceeded to raid the house in [word indistinct] rented by Jose Manuel Echevers, a well-known Noriega opponent and a leader of the Panamanian Armed Liberation Front [Frente de Liberacion Armada de Panama]. Officials also found a machinegun and many documents in his house. Among the documents was a list of Nicaraguan Misquito Indians who supposedly had been recruited to fight in Panama. There was nobody in the house; thus, nobody was arrested. Investigations into the case, however, will continue, because there are more weapons in northern Costa Rica.

Border Security Commission Set Up With Panama

PA1802143189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] San Jose, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—An official source announced today that the Panamanian and Costa Rican Governments have designated a joint commission that will deal with border security and delimitation affairs. The source, who requested anonymity, said the commission will meet in March. He explained that both countries' foreign ministries are still working on the dates and the exact agenda that will be discussed at the meeting.

At the end of 1988, incidents reported at the Panamanian-Costa Rican border were described by Costa Rican authorities as "normal among neighbors" and as "drunken brawls" by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panamanian military. Among the incidents was the temporary detention in Costa Rican territory of Costa Rican Planning Minister Jorge Monge and several of his companions by a Panama Defense Forces patrol. Another time, it was reported that Panamanian airplanes had violated Costa Rican airspace.

The Panamanian representatives to the commission are Targidio Bernal, deputy government and justice minister; Major Luis del Cid, chief of the 5th Military Zone in Chiriqui Province, which borders with Costa Rica; and the director of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry's Treaty Office, whose surname is Navas.

Costa Rica's representatives are Carlos Vargas, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department; Marino Sagot, senior official of the Public Security Ministry; Juan Felix Barrantes, Civil Police director; and Fernando Mauro Rolin, director of the Geographic Institute.

Arias on Nicaraguan Constitutional Reforms

PA1702163089 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1854 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Report by Mario Carmona, from Orosi, Cartago]

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez referred today at Orosi, Cartago to the international wires received following Daniel Ortega's news conference, where he said there would not be any constitutional reforms in Nicaragua. President Arias said that during the meetings held in El Salvador on 13-14 February, it was made clear Nicaragua could not make constitutional reforms; instead, laws would be reformed—specifically the electoral law, the political party laws, and some others. Here is President Arias' statement on this topic:

[Begin recording] In San Salvador, the five presidents talked a great deal on whether the Nicaraguan Government should be forced to make constitutional reforms; we agreed the answer would be no. According to the current Constitution, two legislative changes would be needed for a constitutional reform. Therefore, these changes could not be made in time for elections in February 1990—or whatever date is agreed on by the Sandinist government together with the opposition parties. This is why we agreed—I hope this is satisfactory for the parties of the Democratic Coordinating Board and for all opposition parties in general—the reforms would be to current legislation, especially to three important laws: the electoral law, political party laws, and the laws controlling the media.

Costa Rica strongly insisted that access to the media be very balanced and that all political parties have an equal opportunity. We also demanded that the composition of the Supreme Electoral Council, which is similar to our Supreme Election Tribunal, be modified. At no time was there an obligation to make constitutional reforms. [end recording]

President Arias said the presidents agreed very clearly that if elections in Nicaragua were held in February and Ortega were to continue in power, it would be an unacceptable mockery. Arias stressed that this topic was dicussed; therefore, if elections are held in February, Ortega should immediately hand over power once the results are known.

Minister Comments on Nicaraguan Canal Project

PA1902184189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Costa Rican Government is viewing, with caution and skepticism, the project to build a canal, as announced by the Nicaraguan Sandinist government.

Alvaro Umana, minister of natural resources, energy, and mines, said Costa Rica has not been informed about this Nicaraguan project. However, he admitted joint talks have been held on the subject since 1985.

Umana said an agreement was signed stating that a binational commission would be created to conduct the necessary studies for the construction of an interoceanic waterway.

Talks conducted during the previous administration between the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments to build an interoceanic canal using the San Juan River were suspended after the Las Crucitas incident. Since then, the Nicaraguan Government has not reported any further actions on the project; however, it was learned the Sandinists continued the studies, with the participation of Soviet experts.

Minister Umana said Costa Rican authorities were surprised by the Nicaraguan Government's announcement, because no previous information was received regarding the project.

Natural Resources Minister Umana says the Costa Rican Government will ask the Nicaraguan Sandinist government to share any studies or serious analysis conducted for the construction of an interoceanic canal.

Umana said Costa Rica is worried because 1 year has passed since Costa Rica and Nicaragua signed a letter of intent in which they agreed to develop a forest reserve for peace. Nicaragua had planned several projects in the border area, including a forest reserve, an irrigation plan, and the interoceanic canal. One year ago, the Nicaraguan Government was asked to state whether it would consent to participate in the forest reserve plan, but Nicaragua failed to state its official position, Umana said.

Nicaragua cannot unilaterally pursue the interoceanic canal plan, because any negotiation involving an interoceanic canal using the San Juan River requires Costa Rica's participation.

Umana said the canal would have a strong impact on Costa Rica, adding that his government has requested that Nicaragua disclose the status of the studies that have been conducted. Meanwhile, there are legal and technical issues that preclude Nicaragua's acting unilaterally on the project.

The Costa Rican Government, Umana continued, will request that the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden give Costa Rica the funds approved for the creation of the forest reserves on the Nicaraguan border. Umana will meet tomorrow with those nations' accredited ambassadors in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Government will allege that the Nicaraguan regime has maintained an ambivalent attitude toward the forest reserve's creation, and that it has remained silent on the issue after 1 year has passed since the letter of intent was signed.

The treaty states that Costa Rica has rights over the use of the San Juan River and that the Nicaraguan Government cannot legally carry out any project on the river without Costa Rica's consent.

The treaty sets Costa Rica's borderline at the river's southernmost coast, and any project carried out in that area will be considered to be in Costa Rican territory. Meanwhile, there is a 31-meter drop between Lake Nicaragua and the San Juan River. The project necessarily requires locks and lakes, and would thus be partially in Costa Rican territory.

From a legal viewpoint, because of the project's geopolitical setting, it does not only require Costa Rica's and Nicaragua's consent, but the consent of the world's leading countries, Umana said. The construction of an interoceanic canal using the San Juan River, the natural resources minister said, would have commercial and military significance, which is why the Costa Rican Government has expressed reservation regarding the plan. Umana also said the Costa Rican Government will wait until it has received all the necessary information before issuing an official statement.

The Brazilian Government has conducted two interoceanic canal studies as part of a plan to mediate between Nicaragua and Japan. There is no specific information available on those studies, however, and the Costa Rican Government is trying to secure information from the Sandinist regime.

Natural Resources Minister Umana said that over the past few days, he has attempted to contact his Nicaraguan counterpart, but to no avail.

Government Protests EPS Incursion To Steal Cattle
PA2102223289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
2210 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] San Jose, 21 Feb (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government has protested to the Nicaraguan Government over the "EPS's territorial violation of Verdun," the border area between the two countries.

According to the Costa Rican protest, "Nicaraguan military forces penetrated approximately 3 km into Costa Rican territory."

The Public Security Ministry has announced that "Nicaraguans stole 320 heads of cattle from a farm on the Costa Rican side."

This is the third time Costa Rica has protested in the past 30 days over the "violation of Costa Rica's sovereignty."

Editorial Criticizes Arias' Talks With Castro
PA2102211789 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
7 Feb 89 p 14-A

[Editorial: "Castro's Subtle Mockery"]

[Text] Fidel Castro's recent visit to Caracas, as well as his visit to Ecuador last year, should jolt several Central American democratic governments back into reality and compel them to restrain their illusions and accept the facts. President Arias has been the person who has insisted the most on holding talks with Castro. Arias has been sincere and outspoken. His eagerness to hold talks with Fidel, however, has led him to implicitly admit what he has often denied or failed to notice.

The essence of the peace plan is the peace-democracy formula: the achievement of peace through democracy. Arias, however, stressed peace over democracy during Esquipulas II's 1st year of existence and downplayed the fact that the two concepts go hand-in-hand. Arias, at the very least, failed to note the indivisible relationship between the two concepts. Now that he has made overtures to Castro, he will have to face up to the consequences of his actions.

First, if he were to ask Fidel Castro to stop meddling in Central American affairs, Arias would have to admit that the main cause of the Central American crisis is not U.S. aid to the "contras," but the entrenchment of the Marxist-Leninist ideology in Nicaragua and the Cuban-Soviet presence in Nicaragua and El Salvador. A great deal of time has consequently been wasted censuring the United States for providing a military support that was nothing but a response to the Soviet intervention in Central America through its satellite or colony: Fidel's Cuba.

Second, once Arias notes that Fidel responds to his pleas with answers loaded with cynicism and subtle mockery, Arias will have to face the crude reality that 60 minutes are not enough to talk to a tyrant—who for the last 30 years has been exercising absolute power in his country—into suddenly becoming the guardian angel of peace and democracy in Central America.

These two experiences should teach Don Oscar two things: first, that unfortunately the establishment of peace in Central America does not depend solely on Central Americans, as was joyously announced the day Esquipulas II was signed. Due to today's realities, Central American peace requires the inevitable intervention of the United States and the Soviet Union. The current world situation—with a Soviet Union shaken by internal conflicts and technological and economic sluggishness and in which the people's hopes have been awakened—makes it feasible to promote a change in Cuba and Nicaragua. However, it all depends on a realistic approach by and the vision of the current U.S. Government; second, that foreign policy must be geared to rekindling the plan proposed by the Foreign Ministry during the initial days of this Government, to promote

an urgent alliance of the European and Latin American democracies to bring about a great change in Central America. During the recent meetings in Venezuela, a ray of hope began to flicker in this direction.

It is therefore necessary to work with a greater spirit of humility, a sense of unity, and clear objectives.

Within this framework, it is of major importance to avoid taking isolated or vague steps. One of the first steps must be to place Fidel Castro where he belongs in the political spectrum, without letting ourselves get carried away by the desire to draw attention.

It would be a grave mistake to fall into Third World snobbism or naivete by trying to attribute to Fidel a moral force that he lacks; an autonomy, while in fact he is controlled by the Kremlin; an intention that is foreign to his unbalanced personality; and a good faith that he has never had. It is not possible to change history in an instant or to change human nature.

To ask Fidel to enlist in the Central American peace army is to try to make a circle square. If, as Esquipulas II reads, peace depends on democracy—a democracy created by free elections—and on human rights, it is absurd and almost unrealistic to imagine Fidel joining the ranks of this peace army. Consequently, when Don Oscar expresses disappointment over Fidel's words, one does not know if he has lost sight of the facts or has forgotten the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

Within this framework of reality, the upcoming presidential summit should be a return to common sense; to the simplification of procedures, without having them lose force or effectiveness; and to the spirit of unity and the firm conviction about the true nature of our adversary. Otherwise, our leaders will continue to fumble in the dark.

Government Refuses Further Spending Cutbacks

PA1902133189 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo has said categorically that the government is unwilling to make further public spending cutbacks beyond those already announced.

Naranjo said that for over 2 years the government has been able to reduce public spending in relation to Costa Rican private spending, and stressed that as a result, public spending today has less of a bearing on national production than it did 2 years ago.

According to Naranjo, the government's total expenditures, in relation to the GNP, dropped from 17.15 percent in 1987 to 15.99 percent in 1988.

The government announced a readjustment of public spending involving 8.5 billion colons as part of a scheme to attack inflation during 1989. According to Naranjo, the government is unwilling to make further cutbacks.

Naranjo said the government will not reduce the quality of basic services that the state provides for education, health, and justice.

Naranjo said: "We have handled public funds with great responsibility; we have cleaned up public finances. We have cut expenditures. The country can rest assured things will be handled in 1989 with the same moderation. Asking the Costa Rican state to endanger basic services simply because expenditures must be cut seems to me to be irresponsible and lacking sense of the country's needs."

According to the finance minister, there are many commentaries saying the state spends excessively. He regretted that little attention is paid to the efforts made over the past 2 and ½ years to clean up public spending.

El Salvador

Official Source Says Duarte Working 'Normally'

PA2202044789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0306 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (AFP)—An official source today said that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who underwent a new cancer treatment last week, is carrying out his government duties "normally."

The source denied press reports that asserted that the president had another health relapse due to the treatment.

An official bulletin stated that Duarte received a new chemotherapy treatment on 17 February to reduce the metastases of his liver cancer, which caused him some discomfort but no serious complications.

The bulletin added that despite his heavy workload, President Duarte is well and "is carrying out his activities normally in the government house."

Reportage on FMLN, Political Parties Meeting

First Round of Talks Concluded

PA2102131789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1208 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Oaxtepec, Mexico—The first round of talks between the representatives of the Salvadoran guerrillas and 13 political parties from that country concluded tonight [as heard] in Oaxtepec, Mexico, without reaching any agreement. Salvador Samayoa, member of the

rebels' political-diplomatic commission, said the first meeting was most satisfactory. Samayoa added he hopes specific agreements will be reached today, when the meeting concludes.

He added that the main topic discussed in today's session was the FMLN proposal that calls for accepting the results of the presidential elections originally slated for 19 March provided they are postponed until 15 September to guarantee honesty in the elections and massive attendance at the polls. A source close to the meeting said the FMLN increased its proposal to include a cease-fire and modification of the postponed election date other than 15 September.

Hugo Barrera of the Popular Union pointed out that some FMLN proposals such as the postponement of the elections do not depend only on the political parties, because this will have to be approved by the Salvadoran Government. Speaking for the political parties participating in the meeting, Barrera added the election campaign is well advanced, which makes it difficult to accept the FMLN petition for postponing them.

On its part, the delegation of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, composed of Francisco Merino and Armando Calderon, walked out of the meeting place. They both refused to comment.

Temporary Suspension of Talks

PA2102211089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report by Carlos Mario Marquez from Morelos State, Mexico]

[Text] We have a special report on the meeting held today between political parties and FMLN representatives. The talks were temporarily suspended at approximately 1030 to hold a number of interparty meetings.

Here we have statements by Ana Guadalupe Martinez, a member of the FMLN diplomatic-political commission, who will comment on the talks.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] The talks ended yesterday when the FMLN presented a proposal aimed at contributing to the continuity of the discussions among the parties. We are interested in facilitating the debates. All the parties left last night to review the proposal, and this morning we met to see if the parties had adopted positions on the proposal. In the proposal, the FMLN called for the creation of three commissions to discuss the real possibility of reaching agreements. If an agreement were to be reached, we would then decide whether or not the elections should be postponed to avoid the argument that it is not possible to postpone the elections because of the Constitution or because 15 September is not an appropriate date for any party. We believe we should all consider whether the postponement of the elections is possible and go from there.

We know the Salvadoran people are very interested in our proposal because it gives them hope. It has the support of the majority of the population, who wants an agreement leading to a lasting peace.

This morning the parties did not give their final opinion. Instead they called for a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings to try to reach a consensus so we can meet again at 1600 with final positions so the discussions do not go on forever. We believe decisions should be made here. If they agree on the creation of commissions, the discussions will continue; otherwise this shows the parties are not willing to discuss the FMLN proposal.

[Marquez] Ana Guadalupe, it was said at noon here at the (Teponteco) Hotel that the position of ARENA has become somewhat flexible but that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] representatives' views have been quite distant from the viewpoints of the other political parties. Since you were present at the talks, what can you tell us about this?

[Martinez] The ARENA representatives left yesterday with our proposal in their hands saying they would review it. We believe they are really studying the possibility of working with the commissions. In that regard, we see an open and flexible position. We do not know if this has something to do with the statements being made in San Salvador to go ahead and hold elections on 19 March; however, we believe that 19 March should not be a deadline. We believe there should be a willingness to create commissions to study the possiblity of postponing the elections. The PDC said the parties do not have the authority to decide anything important here. The PDC said there was no need for so much talk because the parties and the FMLN had no authority to make decisions. The FMLN and the other parties reacted by saying that these parties represent a large portion of the Salvadoran people, therefore the talks held here are not useless. [end recording]

'Optimistic' About Meeting

PA2102170689 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1458 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN Political and Diplomatic Commission, with unidentified reporter "this morning" at the Oaxtepec Resort, Morelos State, Mexico—recorded]

[Text] [Samayoa] My greetings to the Salvadoran people. The FMLN is very enthusiastic and optimistic about these talks. We think the talks are historic and unprecedented. All but two of the country's political parties are holding talks with the delegation that the FMLN leadership sent to Mexico. Following yesterday's first round of talks, we think our meeting will have a positive outcome. Despite the boycott by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which has always refused to make.... [changes thought] We know the PDC has always done the same thing in all its meetings with the political parties. It has

never made commitments, taken risks, or taken a firm position. The PDC creates the impression that it wants peace so it can attract votes. It has never played a constructive role at those meetings. We hope the PDC changes its attitude.

The ARENA also seems to have taken a firm stance on the possibility of postponing the elections so the latter can lead us to peace. Despite those two exceptions, I think the general climate and the willingness of the majority of the parties and of the FMLN are constructive. We hope ARENA and PDC change their position.

[Reporter] What is the position of the other political parties toward the proposal to set up working commissions today? Have they said they are willing to establish such commissions today or soon?

[Samayoa] Considering we are working against the clock, the FMLN made a proposal to try to expedite the implementation of its political proposal. Commissions can be set up, or we can seek other means. That is not the key issue; the key issue is to have a political commitment. If, after this meeting, the political parties do not make a clearer commitment to explore other options or to postpone the elections, it seems the parties will continue with the election campaign and will hold the elections on 19 March. Then nothing will have changed in our country. And so, unfortunately, the situation would be the same or worse because of the irresponsibility of these persons. We hope that will not be the case. I repeat, there is a chance we may reach an agreement today.

[Reporter] What can you tell the Salvadoran people today, considering that even though this meeting was very hard to arrange, it has taken place? What can you tell them?

[Samayoa] The main thing in a complex situation such as that in our country, where the masses have been hurt so much, is that democracy and liberty can be achieved through organization and struggle. The FMLN has made a flexible proposal that basically fulfills the people's legitimate longing for peace, social justice, democracy, and liberty. The people, through their labor and trade organizations and other organizations, must also support this cause. The people must defend this cause. The people must demand that the political parties, the government, and the Armed Forces take constructive positions.

FMLN Presents Proposal

PA2102195789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1448 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Unattributed report on FMLN communique presented to political parties "this morning" in Mexico]

[Text] As for the meeting between political parties and the FMLN delegation, talks will continue this morning in an attempt to reach points of agreement paving the way to peace.

The first exploratory meeting took place yesterday and lasted 3 hours. According to Hugo Barreras of the Popular Union Coalition [Coalicion Union Popular] who is heading the discussion table, there is an atmosphere that could favor agreements on points to partially improve our country's combative situation.

This morning, the FMLN presented a new proposal to the political parties which reads:

FMLN Proposal to El Salvador's Political Parties:

Having already complied with a phase of the political discussion of sending to the parties on 14 February a written document containing further details they requested regarding our proposal to ensure the elections will contribute to the achievement of peace, the FMLN believes the meeting on 20-21 February must focus on the implementation of accords.

The dates for democratic elections to end the armed conflict must be established after the necessary deadlines to implement the accords to be established. It would be illogical to reverse the order, because a political agreement could be outright hindered.

Based on the above, we propose the following points to the political parties:

First: Immediate creation of three work commissions

The first commission would be tasked with achieving a cease-fire. Its agenda would include a cease-fire, an end to repression, and reciprocal measures by the Armed Forces and the FMLN to confine troops or withdrawal of military presence from voting places.

The second commission would be tasked with dealing with the problem of the mayors. It would be tasked with juridical and political aspects of election reform. Its agenda would include the electoral code, registration of voters, restructuring of the Central Electoral Council, establishment of an investigating organization, and supervision [3-second break in reception] of the media.

The third commission would be tasked with aspects pertaining to an international verification of the compliance of political and military accords.

Second: The FMLN also proposes that the nature of the work commissions be as follows:

They can be conceived as direct negotiation entities; in this case, they would have to be composed of representatives of state branches and the FMLN. In another point, the FMLN states the commissions could be conceived as entities to promote cooperation and consultations among the political parties and the FMLN. In this case, joint resolutions would still have to be presented to the government; therefore, the necessary participation of

the Armed Forces and the Legislative Assembly in the negotiation of a political solution would have to be relegated to a second phase.

Third: Deadlines and Operation of the Commissions

1. The FMLN proposes that the commissions be immediately established and installed regardless of what the reasons for their establishment.

2. It proposes that all commissions end their work before 19 March.

3. The FMLN would accept commissions operating inside or outside the country.

Fourth: FMLN Representatives

The first commission would be composed of Commanders Jorge Melendez, Leo Cabral, and Salvador Guerra; the second commission would include Commanders Facundo Guardado, Mercedes del Carmen Letona, and Mr Dagoberto Gutierrez; and the third commission would include Commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Mario Lopez, and Mr Salvador Samayoa.

Fifth: Election Dates

The FMLN proposes holding presidential elections 5 months after the beginning of a cease-fire, which would mark the beginning of an election campaign in which the FMLN, after having suspended military operations, would be able to participate effectively.

Sixth: On a Constitutional Solution Following a Postponement of the Elections

The FMLN proposes that the Legislative Assembly appoint a provisional independent president following a prior accord among the parties with the explicit commitment of limiting his mandate until the holding of presidential elections.

[Signed] Commanders Shafik Jorge Handal, (Eduardo Sanchez), (Francisco Povery), Salvador Sanchez Ceren, and Joaquin Villalobos.

Venceremos Reports Proposal

PA2202020989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0045 GMT 22 Feb 89

[20 February FMLN proposal presented during meeting with political parties in Mexico City]

[Text] Introduction:

Having completed one phase of the political discussion by sending on 14 February the written explanations demanded by the political parties regarding our proposal to turn the elections into a contribution toward the achievement of peace, the FMLN believes that the 20-21 February meeting must concentrate on the implementation of agreements.

The dates on which we must hold democratic elections to end the armed conflict must be determined after establishing how much time is necessary to implement the agreements. It would be illogical to proceed the other way around, as this might hinder any political agreement.

Based on the above, we propose the following points to the political parties:

1. The immediate creation of three working commissions:

   —A commission to establish an end to hostilities. The commission's agenda would include a cease-fire, an end to repression, and reciprocal measures—to be pledged by the Armed Forces and the FMLN—to confine to their quarters or to withdraw military forces from voting areas.

   —A commission to settle the mayors' problem.

   —A commission to establish the juridical and political aspects of a reform to the electoral law. The commission's agenda would include: the electoral code, voters' registry, reorganization of the Central Electoral Council, creation of a supervisory organization, international supervision of the elections, use of the media, and a commission to handle issues relating to international verification of the implementation of political and military agreements.

2. Role of the working commissions:

   A. The working commissions can carry out direct negotiations. In this case, the commissions should be composed of representatives from the state branches and the FMLN.

   B. The commissions can be used to reach agreements between the political parties and the FMLN. In this case, joint resolutions would still have to be presented to the government and, since necessary, the Armed Forces' and the Legislative Assembly's participation in the negotiations for a political agreement would be relegated to a second phase.

3. Terms and functions of the commissions:

   A. The FMLN proposes that the commissions be formed and installed immediately, regardless of their composition.

   B. We propose that all commissions conclude their work prior to 19 March.

C. The FMLN would accept the commissions' functioning either inside or outside the country.

4. FMLN representatives in the commissions: first commission: Commanders Jorge Melendez, Leo Cabrales, and Salvador Guerra; second commission: Commanders Facundo Guardado, (Dagoberto Gutierrez) and Mercedes del Carmen Letona; third commission: Commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Salvador Samayoa, and Mario Lopez.

5. Dates for elections.

The FMLN proposes to hold presidential elections 4 months after the beginning of the cease-fire. The cease-fire would mark the beginning of the election campaign in which the FMLN would effectively participate after having ceased its military operations.

6. A constitutional solution to the election postponement problem:

The FMLN proposes that an independent provisional president be appointed with the approval of the political parties and with the explicit pledge to end his presidential duties when the presidential elections are held.
FMLN General Command
[Signed] Commanders Shafik Jorge Handal, Roberto Roca, Leonel Gonzalez, Ferman Cienfuegos, and Joaquin Villalobos.
El Salvador, 20 February 1989

Proposal Includes Truce

PA2102223889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2053 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas today, in a new peace offer, included a 5-month truce with the Army, according to a document that has been released in San Salvador.

The FMLN also proposed that it would accept the results of the elections in El Salvador if the elections scheduled for 19 March are postponed in order to negotiate a new election framework.

According to the document, the FMLN proposes that the Legislative Assembly appoint a provisional president to govern after 1 June, when President Jose Napoleon Duarte will relinquish power as stipulated by the Constitution.

The rebels delivered the document to the members of 13 parties who today are engaged in the 2d day of meetings at a Mexican beach resort to discuss the possibility of postponing the elections until 15 September, according to the FMLN's initial proposal, which was presented on 15 January.

This expansion of the FMLN proposal became known a few hours after the beginning of a major guerrilla offensive in which over 30 Army troops were killed, according to FMLN reports.

The proposal, which was signed by the top five guerrilla leaders and released in San Salvador, provides for the appointment of three commissions made up of politicians and rebels to reach agreement on a cessation of hostilities, juridical and political negotiations, and international verification of the elections.

The guerrillas propose that the Legislative Assembly name an independent provisional president with the explicit commitment of limiting his mandate to the time of the presidential elections, specifically until August 1989, 5 months after 19 March.

The FMLN proposal calls for the elections to be held in August and, after 19 March, for the establishment of a cease-fire, a return to barracks by both Army and guerrilla forces, and the absence of the military from voting.

With this offer, the FMLN has tried to resolve the problems that its first proposal caused among government branches, which labeled it "unconstitutional."

The Armed Forces and President Duarte rejected the proposal on the grounds that "it was fraught with unconstitutional aspects and aimed at dividing the government branches and the Army."

Colonel Orlando Zepeda, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, said today that the Army "will enforce respect for the Constitution" and that "the parties cannot reach an agreement with the rebels."

For the first time, leaders of 13 parties ranging from the Salvadoran far right to the left, are holding talks with the FMLN and discussing the guerrilla proposal to postpone the elections in order to negotiate guarantees that would make the elections a way to find a political solution to the conflict in that Central American country.

More on FMLN Proposal

PA2102232989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2235 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report by Ricardo Chacon]

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrilla movement today announced in a document that it is willing to put down its weapons and take part in El Salvador's political life, as long as an agreement is reached with the government and the Army.

The document, issued by the FMLN and presented to delegates from 13 Salvadoran political parties, points out that the war in El Salvador "does not yet have any winners or losers."

"It is, therefore, illogical and unrealistic to expect any of the sides to agree to surrender," the document adds.

The FMLN's 3-page document, to which ACAN-EFE had access, states four basic points that must be guaranteed following the negotiations: the military personnel guilty of murders must be tried; they must be dismissed from the Armed Forces; the security forces must be dissolved; and a sole military body formed.

For the first time since the beginning of the armed conflict in this country 9 years ago, the FMLN states that it is willing to stop the armed struggle, join political life, and recognize the existence of a single army.

The document was delivered by the guerrillas to the politicians with whom they are holding a 2-day meeting in Mexico. The participants in the meeting are analyzing a rebel proposal to postpone the 19 March elections while a new election framework is negotiated.

The FMLN document, which is signed with the Christian names of its five top leaders on paper with a letterhead with the national emblem, maintains that lasting peace must be achieved "with the demilitarization of society and national consensus to establish a pluralistic model."

The guerrillas do not speak of a Marxist-style society. They do not demand a share of power in a possible transition government, nor do they make demands for territory, as they had been doing since the beginning of the war. As a basic requirement to lay down arms, they call for the reaching of "an agreement with the government and the Armed Forces."

Military sources consulted by ACAN-EFE stated that this proposal "is illogical, outside any discussion, and a violation of the country's constitutional system."

An Army colonel, who commands troops in an area where there is heavy fighting, said that it would be suicide for the Armed Forces to accept the proposal of "the terrorists now that they are cornered."

The rebels, who in the past few hours increased their attacks on military positions, maintain that as long as those responsible for assassinations, such as that of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in March 1980, are not punished, "there can be no guarantees for real democratic life" in El Salvador.

The rebels state that the level of the Armed Forces must be reduced from its current number of 50,000 to 12,000, the number they had in the beginning of this decade. However, they do not specify what would be the future of the FMLN combatants, who, according to Army figures, number approximately 6,000.

The rebels also propose the dissolution of the main police bodies and the establishment of a new, more professional body that would be under the Interior Ministry and not under the Armed Forces.

"The reign of terror is continuing, and it would be suicide to halt the armed struggle," the rebel document states. At the same time, they insist that the 19 March elections be postponed for at least 5 months.

Proposals Received 'Lukewarmly'

PA2202012989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0022 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Report by Eduardo Kragelund]

[Excerpts] Oaxtepec, Mexico, 21 Feb (REUTER)—A broad rebel proposal to put an end to 9 years of civil war in El Salvador was received lukewarmly today by the two main parties and does not seem to be making headway, political sources said here.

"We are pessimistic about its prospects," Guillermo Ungo, presidential candidate of the leftist Democratic Convergence admitted. "The agreements will probably be minimal," he added.

FMLN representatives offered to permanently end the armed struggle and to join political life in exchange for the reorganization of the Army and security forces. [passage omitted]

The proposals were made in two documents—a more extensive one on peace and another one referring to the elections. They were presented to political leaders meeting here since yesterday with FMLN leaders.

The ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) "do not seem to want to negotiate anything," Aronette Diaz, delegate of the leftist National Democratic Union, told REUTER. [passage omitted]

The representatives of the ruling PDC have refused to speak with the press since the meeting began, and an ARENA delegate excused himself from giving his opinion "so as not to endanger the possibility of reaching an agreement."

Regarding the holding of elections, the rebels insisted that they must be postponed to guarantee leftist participation. However, they offered to agree to a cease-fire 5 months before holding the elections.

"The halt in hostilities would mark the beginning of an election campaign in which the FMLN, having deactivated its military operations, would be able to participate effectively in the elections," the document stated. [passage omitted]

The FMLN said that the holding of free elections and the achievement of agreements on the reorganization of the Armed Forces and the security forces would create the necessary conditions for peace.

"Therefore, the causes which led to the armed struggle would end and, in this way, the great changes the country needs to achieve social justice could be peacefully undertaken," the document stated.

Sign Agreements in Mexico

PA2202043589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0413 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The political parties and the guerrillas have signed their first agreements in Mexico in regard to the guerrillas' proposal. According to a communique read over the telephone by our reporter Mauricio Funes, the Salvadoran politicians and the FMLN commanders signed an agreement on three points. One of the points states that the political parties considered the insurgents' proposal to be positive. The second point states that the political parties will make efforts at the government and Legislative Assembly level to see that urgent negotiations are held between the government and the guerrillas to discuss the proposal. The third point states that the political parties promise to make every possible effort to postpone the elections. This is the news that Mauricio Funes provided to us by telephone from Mexico.

ARENA To Demand FMLN Halt Hostilities

PA2202002489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] ARENA will propose to the terrorist leaders in Mexico that the FMLN indefinitely halt hostilities while its peace proposal is under negotiation.

This was stated by ARENA presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani, who said that in order to negotiate with the FMLN, the conditions under which they are willing to hold talks must be clarified.

He said that one cannot sit down and calmly negotiate with them in Mexico or anywhere else while they are setting off bombs and murdering ARENA leaders. He mentioned that yesterday they killed an ARENA leader in Cuscatlan.

He added that it would be too optimistic to believe that something positive will come out of the first meeting, taking into account that there have been 9 years of talks with the FMLN and nothing has been achieved.

Cristiani stressed that if something good has come out of the peace proposal, it is because for the first time in the nation's history, the political parties have united to seek peace, setting aside any differences.

He said that the FMLN is a political party like any other existing political party in El Salvador, with the only difference being that the FMLN is the only one that seeks power through violence and not through votes.

He added that the political parties that went to Mexico are there precisely to try to convince the FMLN to participate in the elections and to lay down arms once and for all.

The ARENA leader also said that in an ARENA poll, 73 percent of those polled believe that the elections should not be postponed.

The other 23 percent [figure as published] favor the postponement of the elections until September, as long as the FMLN puts down its weapons once and for all.

Referring to this, Cristiani said that the people are the ones who reject FMLN violence, adding that the FMLN has no other option than to join the Salvadoran democratic process.

He concluded that the election process has credibility, and he acknowledged that the ruling Christian Democratic government is legitimately governing the people. He said, however, that this does not mean that he agrees with the way that the administration is governing.

Explosions, Sirens Heard in San Salvador

PA2102130089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1228 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Live report by station announcer]

[Text] We are hearing the emergency sirens of the National Police. Bomb explosions have been heard in various parts of San Salvador near Zacamil, near the San Carlos Garrison, everywhere. There also may have been an attack in the Apopa area. There is confusion in San Salvador right now.

We do not know what is going on, but the National Police sirens you have just heard mean an alarm is spreading throughout the capital city. We hope nothing catastrophic has happened. Stay tuned; we will continue to report on the situation. Explosions have been heard around San Salvador. Last night, there was an attack in Apopa. We do not know what is going on, but the situation seems to be getting worse.

'Attack' on 'All Garrisons'

PA2102132589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1308 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] We have received another report from Zacatecoluca that says there has been a general attack against all garrisons, including the Armed Forces Engineer Training Center, the Treasury Police, the National Guard, the Municipal Guard, everyone. Air Force helicopters are still overflying the Zacatecoluca area.

1st Infantry Brigade Attacked

PA2102140789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1319 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report by Javier Najarro]

[Text] FMLN guerrillas carried out attacks on military targets early today. At 0620, the rebels attacked the 1st Infantry Brigade installations with explosives. Two cars parked nearby were equipped with catapults that launched bombs at the 1st Infantry Brigade installations, but the bombs missed their target.

The first car was parked on San Carlos Street, 75 meters from the 1st Brigade's checkpoint. The other car was parked on 41st West Street. This car exploded when the catapult launched the bombs, killing one civilian and wounding another.

One of the bombs fired by the catapults exploded on a sidewalk on 7th North Avenue, damaging at least 15 houses in that area. Another bomb exploded in an empty lot outside the 1st Brigade installations. The 1st Brigade has not reported any casualties among its troops or damage to its installations.

Meanwhile, FMLN guerrillas attacked the Engineering Detachment in Zacatecoluca this morning. According to civilian sources, the attack lasted from 0100 until 0430. The rebels used explosives. A major and two soldiers were killed in this attack.

It was also reported that explosives went off inside the Engineering Detachment installations, as well as at the National Police garrison in Zacatecoluca.

It was also reported that an Esso gasoline station at the outskirts of Apopa was destroyed early today.

Civilian sources reported that the National Administration of Telecommunications Office [place not specified] was damaged by guerrilla sabotage early today.

Honduras

Azcona Plays Down CIA Director's Statement

PA1802194489 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Jose Azcona has said statements by CIA Director William Webster, who mentioned the possibility of a coup in Honduras, were distorted by the local press.

According to a Tegucigalpa newspaper, Webster included Honduras among the Latin American countries that are endangered by coup plots. The Honduran Congress formed a special commission to investigate "the truth" of the alleged plot.

Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez demanded that Webster show proof of his statement so Regalado could take action if his subordinates are involved in the alleged coup plot.

Government spokesman Marco Tulio Romero told LA TRIBUNA that Webster's statements "were studied, and we concluded that they were distorted."

The CIA director referred to the situation in several countries where actions have been taken against legitimate governments, such as Argentina and Guatemala, but he did not mention Honduras, the presidential spokesman clarified.

Referring to a Tegucigalpa newspaper, Romero said "they distorted the statement and hoped for reactions from the country's leaders, but we at Government House give no credence to that paper's report."

The news broke while President Azcona was at the summit in El Salvador with Gen Regalado, "a calm man who has great democratic spirit and takes sensible actions," Romero said.

The spokesman conceded "there could be some bitter, resentful, and frustrated people who would want something like that to happen, but to say a coup is being planned is not true."

President Azcona believes those reports have no credibility, Romero said, cheerfully adding that Azcona traveled to the United States "unworried and with peace of mind," as former President Roberto Suazo Cordova once said.

Romero said that Azcona left Presidential-designate Alfredo Fortin in charge of the Presidency and that the situation "continues to be normal."

According to Romero, contrary to those reports, Honduras is an example of democracy. Romero cited the fact that political parties must choose their candidates in free and honest internal elections.

Furthermore, right now all industrial, business, labor, political, and social groups are participating in a national dialogue to find solutions to the economic crisis and violence, Romero said, adding that the initial meeting was successful.

President Azcona traveled to Indiana at 1300 yesterday on a private visit. He will leave for Japan on 21 February to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral.

Azcona will return to Honduras on 27 February, the day he will open the fifth meeting of EEC, Contadora and Support Group, and Central American foreign ministers in the northern city of San Pedro Sula.

President Azcona plans to visit Taiwan in April and Spain during the last week of September. He was invited by the governments of those countries.

Azcona has also been invited to visit Italy and France and will probably accept those invitations, Romero said.

Foreign Minister on Statement

PA2002155989 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Report by Elan Reyes Pineda]

[Text] There has been little acceptance of the news reported last week on the possibility of a coup d'etat in Honduras against President Jose Azcona. The diversity of opinions considered that the scandal almost occurred because the information was badly managed by certain communications media in the country. However, the National Congress ordered the Foreign Ministry to make the necessary investigations of the case that arose as a result of statements made by CIA Director William Webster. Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras immediately called the State Department in Washington. Lopez Contreras said he has no reason to talk to an intelligence department such as the CIA on such matters:

[Begin recording] We received a request from the National Congress based on a resolution approved in the last few days. We are complying, but through the State Department. We do not address an intelligence department such as the CIA. [end recording]

Everything generates confusion, because some politicians claim there was a coup attempt, but not by the Honduran Armed Forces. With these statements, one does not know what the politicians' intentions were. It was learned the CIA will call on many of those who made statements to provide better explanations by the State Department to the Honduran Government, which is still concerned about the still unclear intentions that were discovered. The foreign minister says the State Department already knows this:

[Begin recording] On the basis of a resolution approved in the last few days by the people's representatives, we are working through the State Department, because we do not address an intelligence department such as the CIA. [end recording]

The results of this investigation, in which William Webster is involved, will be known very soon, but the date is not known, according to Honduran authorities.

Editorial Criticizes Statement

PA1702234689 Tegucigalpa El HERALDO in Spanish 15 Feb 89 p 9

[Editorial: "A Coup d'Etat in Honduras?"]

[Text] CIA Director William Webster has included Honduras, along with other Latin American countries, on the list of countries where there is frequently talk of possible coups d'etat.

The "plots to conduct coups" in some South American countries are the result of devastating economic and social crises, which have sown instability in several countries that are on the verge of economic collapse.

Very few nations escape these rumors, because social, economic, and political crises are everywhere, not only in the most powerful and most indebted countries of South America, but also in the five fraternal Central American countries.

It is true that we are immersed in a sea of foreign debt and that there is an uneasiness caused by high unemployment and the pressure created—both in Honduras and Costa Rica—by having a common border with Nicaragua, a country that distanced itself from the regional community to raise the flag of communism with the support of the Soviet Union.

Costa Rica has similar problems regarding the contra movement, and its democracy has been affected. Costa Rica, however, has never forgotten the imminent danger it faces if at any given time the Sandinist forces decide to extend their influence to the south or north of the Nicaraguan borders.

Rumors of a coup d'etat in Honduras have no reasonable basis since the Armed Forces have given no indication of serious problems with the president of the Republic. On the contrary, relations between the military and the civilian leaders have grown increasingly close.

The military elite knows that public administration is a multimegaton bomb and that it is not worth assuming the historic responsibility of failing as a head of government, despite the administrative disaster, the incompetence of most officials, and rising incidents of corruption.

Bomb Explosions Throughout Country Reported

Bus With U.S. Soldiers Attacked

PA1802211489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2034 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Report from Comayagua by (Chuno Martinez) of Radio Corporacion—live]

[Text] Authorities in Comayagua, under the command of Major Juan Blas Salazar, are now conducting investigations into today's 1230 attack on a privately owned bus carrying U.S. soldiers to Palmerola Military Base. No group is known to have claimed responsibility for the attack.

We have no details on the attack. The whole block where the incident took place is still cordoned off. All we have seen are members of the Honduran Red Cross, firemen, and authorities of the Department of National Investigation [DIN] and the Public Security Force [FUSEP], who are investigating.

Thus far it is not known if any guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for this criminal attack that was perpetrated at 1230. Only two people from the Palmerola Military Base have been reported wounded, although not seriously. They were taken from the scene immediately by an ambulance from the base.

The bus was carrying more than 25 U.S. soldiers. There was a great deal of nervousness after the bomb blast. All the windows of a passenger bus traveling beside the bus in question were blown out, while the entire rear section of the bus in which the soldiers were traveling was destroyed.

The bomb blast surprised all the residents of Comayagua, since explosions of this type are very rarely heard here. Everyone ran to the boulevard here in Comayagua. The soldiers were on their way to the military base, after spending an hour or so of leave here in Leon Alvarado Central Park.

So far, no one has claimed credit for this attack. We are awaiting more information. The 5th Military Region is now under the control of Major Juan Blas Salazar, who is a specialist in this kind of operation.

Therefore, we will be providing information over this national network if more details become available in a few minutes.

Three Soldiers Wounded

PA1902183989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1745 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Honduras—Three U.S. soldiers and two Honduran civilians were wounded when unidentified persons threw a bomb at a military bus at noon, the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa has confirmed. The U.S. Army bus, which was carrying 28 soldiers from the city of Comayagua to Palmerola military base, was attacked with a bomb. According to local radio reports, at least two soldiers were wounded. The Embassy reported that three soldiers were wounded, but did not disclose their state of health.

According to radio reports, one of the soldiers reportedly lost a leg. Two civilians who happened to be passing by the site of the explosion were also injured.

(Annette Simed), director of the U.S. Embassy Information Office, said only one of the three soldiers wounded is still in the hospital under observation. She said the real cause of the explosion has not been determined yet, but that the military authorities have begun investigating.

Explosion at Ministries Office

PA2102031989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0251 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A medium-powered bomb exploded tonight outside the Honduran Palace of Ministries in downtown Tegucigalpa, but there were no casualties.

The explosion damaged the sidewalk, one wall of the Palace, a parked automobile, the front of a nearby business, and the windows and grills of nearby buildings.

The bomb exploded at 1920 (0120 GMT). So far, no group has claimed credit for the bombing.

The explosion, which shook the entire downtown area, created a 22-inch hole in the thick earth and brick wall of the ancient colonial-style Palace of Ministries.

The police were mobilized almost instantly, as there is a military post in the building because it houses the Ministries of Government and Justice (Interior) and Defense and Public Security, the Foreign Ministry passport office, and the General Treasury of the Republic.

The police bomb squad is still working at the building, because it is believed there may be another bomb inside.

Threats Issued Before Bombing

PA2102125789 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1205 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report by Lorena Belgen]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Enrique Ortez Colindres received several death threats yesterday after it was learned of the incidents at the Central Penitentiary, a source of this ministry who chose to remain anonymous reported. The minister did not appear at his office yesterday, but it was learned at the ministry that Ortez Colindres held an emergency meeting with the chief of the Armed Forces after learning of the penitentiary riot. It was also learned that the minister had received death threats through several calls made by someone who identified himself as the jackal. The disturbances in the pentitentiary resulted in the suspension of the director and subdirector of the penitentiary, Marco Tulio Mendieta, and (Agape Levy Castillo), respectively.

Since he took office as government minister, Ortez Colindres has denounced prison irregularities. Last year, he ordered an investigation after implicating the director in several irregularities. Thus far, the results have not been reported. It was announced at the Government Ministry that an official bulletin will be issued today reporting on the penitentiary disturbances and the fate of the penitentiary directors. The official received the first

death threats on the telephone early in the morning, the same source announced. At 1900, a bomb exploded at the ministry, causing damage, but fortunately not causing any injuries.

Bomb Injures 20 in City Hall

WA2202031089 Paris AFP in English 0302 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Feb 21 (AFP)-A powerful bomb explosion in the capital's City Hall Tuesday injured 20 people, Honduran officials said.

The bomb was planted in the lower level of the 4-floor building downtown, authorities said. It was the third bomb attack in this Central American country in 4 days.

Tegucigalpa Mayor Rudimiro Zelaya said those injured in Tuesday's bombing were City Hall employees who had been working overtime.

The injured were being treated in a hospital across the street from the municipal building, he said, but did not elaborate on the seriousness of the injuries.

Mr Zelaya said the second floor of the building was almost totally destroyed. A computer system used to store information about city residents was also seriously damaged.

Saturday, a bomb exploded as a bus full of U.S. soldiers passed by, injuring three servicemen. Monday, a bomb went off in the Interior Ministry, causing considerable damage but no injuries.

No group has claimed responsiblilty for the attacks.

2d Explosion in Tegucigalpa

PA2202041989 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0240 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Report by Armando Arevalo—live]

[Text] Once more panic has spread in downtown Tegucigalpa as another bomb, the same size as the one that exploded at 1910 last night at the Government and Justice Ministry building, exploded a few minutes ago, right across the street from the Viera Hospital in the building where the Central District Metropolitan Council is located.

There is much confusion at this moment as the force of the explosion broke several window panes in nearby buildings. There is much panic among patients in the Viera Hospital clinics. Public Security Force bomb squad officers have arrived on the scene as well as firemen and other police authorities who will be investigating the incident.

It was first reported that some people were injured in the powerful explosion that took place just a few minutes ago in the center of Tegucigalpa, but both Red Cross and fire department representatives have begun collecting information to provide an accurate report on the damage. This explosion has taken place almost exactly 24 hours after last night's explosion in the center of Tegucigalpa. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0313 GMT on 22 February reports that the bomb went off at 0141 GMT and "seriously injured" eight people]

Security Forces 'Occupy' Central Penitentiary

PA2002162189 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the Public Security Forces (FUSEP) Public Relations Department in Tegucigalpa on 20 February]

[Text] The FUSEP Public Relations Office reports to national and international public opinion:

1. The FUSEP information and investigation services have been detecting for a long time a dangerous increase in seditious activities and plans to carry out a rebellion today, reportedly with the aid of some Central Penitentiary officials and highly dangerous criminals, which would probably have ended in a massive escape of prisoners to the detriment of national security and the citizens' tranquillity.

2. In view of this situation, FUSEP, following an executive branch order through the Government and Justice Ministry, last night conducted an operation to temporarily occupy the Central Penitentiary.

3. The Government and Justice Ministry, as the authoritity responsible for the direction and management of the penitentiaries in the country, temporarily suspended Central Penitentiary Director Marco Tulio Mendieta and has appointed Police Major David Abraham Mendoza Garcia—penitentiary sciences officer graduated in Argentine—as acting director and internal security chief.

4. Among the reasons for adopting these measures are:

Increased and proven administrative corruption, drug trafficking, sale of leave permits to highly dangerous criminals, armed rebellion of guards, indiscriminate possession of weapons inside the penitentiary, association and complicity in the theft of vehicles, and disobedience to the legally established higher authorities.

5. Once more, the police reaffirm to Honduran citizens that they continue their duty to purge negative elements, to provide and guarantee security for all Honduran citizens, and to remain alert to fulfill their constitutional duty of maintaining and protecting public order and tranquillity.

Government Minister Comments

PA2002180389 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Government and Justice Minister Enrique Ortez Colindres by unidentified reporter—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] A police bulletin states that the Government and Justice Ministry, as the authority responsible for directing the prisons of the country, has temporarily suspended prison Director Marco Tulio Mendieta. Dr Ortez Colindres, what steps will be taken now, after initiating this cleanup operation at the Central Penitentiary?

[Ortez] The people must be calm, because this is only a cleanup operation. We had been receiving reports for several months from investigation teams on the tremendous problem of corruption at the penitentiary. Things got out of hand—remember a few months ago, when there was even a rebellion by guards. You must realize it is extremely dangerous when civilians have weapons, rebel, and ignore the orders of the authorities. This is not just a mere strike, but the people have weapons, and naturally they commit crimes.

The Government and Justice Ministry only has the (?seals) of the Republic concerning the issue of national security. When the operations become complicated, it is our duty to call the police, so it can help us as an armed section. Yesterday we learned a new rebellion was being planned. The reasons were trivial—they were not being fed; they were not being provided with adequate boots—there is always a trivial pretext. The problem is some persons might have served as useful fools, because the problem would have turned into a seditious movement. There is a large population at the prison, approximately 1,300 prisoners. Several days ago, I said there were more prisoners than weapons and supplies for protection.

[Reporter] It has been reported that this seditious movement, this possible rebellion, would have taken place today, promoted by some officials from the Central Penitentiary and some high-risk criminals. Could you give us the names of these officials of the penitentiary involved in this situation?

[Ortez] Once the investigations are completed—meanwhile, we want to be very serious about this. However, I can state that we have been able to verify there are persons involved in this issue, which was getting out of hand in the last few days. Some highly dangerous criminals have left on trips; a group of 28-30 persons went to Progreso. The people there protested, because their children, their brothers have been killed. These people have complained to the ministry, saying criminals are walking the streets. We have been able to verify that over 1,700 criminals were released in the last 3-4 months. The problem would have worsened probably this weekend. [1-minute break in reception] ...has been losing its authority before those people whom I believe were frightened; at the same time, to try to appoint temporarily a chief of security.

The people must know something I believe is very important. The Central Penitentiary has always been operated by civilians who were equipped with national [as heard] weapons, not commercial weapons. Before the president left, I asked him for sufficient supplies because the situation is extremely serious. There is no ammunition, and the Armed Forces chief clearly told me: Mr Minister, I am very sorry to tell you that even though the president has approved it, we cannot supply weapons to persons who cannot handle them. Therefore, if we reach an understanding, we are willing to provide modern and adequate weapons to safeguard the citizenry and provide the necessary supplies. However, we cannot assign national weapons, because the Armed Forces law prohibits these be given to persons who, in one way or another, have already staged several strikes, which is sedition.

Then, prior to his departure, the president agreed we could establish a procedure where we would appoint a responsible person as chief of security, without this changing the fact that all the authorities there are civilian and are under my command.

[Reporter] Among the measures adopted last night and early this morning, there is mention of proven administrative corruption, drug trafficking, the sale of release papers for highly dangerous criminals, armed rebellion by guards, indiscriminate possession of weapons inside the penitentiary, complicity in the theft of vehicles, and disobedience to superior authorities. Among these very important points—drug trafficking, proven high administrative corruption, complicity in the theft of vehicles, armed rebellion of guards—there is the indiscriminate possession of weapons inside the penitentiary. Who possessed these weapons?

[Ortez] A detailed report will be released within the next 48 hours. There is a large quantity of high-caliber weapons in there; there is no security. There are many prisoners who have weapons there; evidence will be presented. There will be an opportunity; the report to be presented in 48 hours will include the names of those persons. [passage omitted]

'Reshuffle' Within Armed Forces Leadership

PA2102135489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report by Miriam Mercado]

[Text] There has been a reshuffle within the Armed Forces in the past few months. It has been confirmed that the so-called Fifth Promotion has been removed from power.

Colonel Roberto Linio Montes, of military intelligence, will now head G-5 as head of the Permanent Committee of National Emergency, COPEN, which had been headed for several years by Colonel Armando Calidonio. Linio Montes has been replaced by Colonel Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, former commander of the airborne battalion and of the Sixth Promotion.

Colonel Ronnie Martinez, former Armed Forces inspector general, will now head the Armed Forces commissariat. Martinez will replace Colonel Carlos Hidalgo, who is reportedly at home.

It was learned Colonel Edgardo Mejia will remain as head of the Honduran Air Force, which everyone thought would be headed by Colonel Roberto Mendoza or Colonel Carlos Aguirre because of their close ties with General Regalado. Despite his 3 years as Air Force chief, Mejia will remain in his post. This was a decision by Air Force members. Some Fifth Promotion members have remained in their posts, such as Colonel Leonel Aquiles Riera Lunatti, who will continue as Armed Forces inspector. However, the rest will no longer be members of the Senior Council of the Armed Forces, the real power of the military.

According to observers, there has been a change of figures because military policies continue to be implemented by General Humberto Regalado Hernandez. At the end of this year, military men must decide who the new Armed Forces commander will be, because Gen Regalado Hernandez may remain in his post only if the constituent law of the Armed Forces is changed.

Nicaragua

Ortega Delivers State-of-Nation Address

PA2102192789 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1734 GMT 21 Feb 89

[State-of-the-nation address by President Daniel Ortega at the opening of the National Assembly's fifth session—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...I promoted it in the last few days of January. We had a broad exchange of views; we assessed economic developments not only during 1988, but during all the years of the revolutionary process. Most importantly, we announced our 1989 economic measures and decisions to combat the hyperinflationary trend the country is experiencing and to create favorable conditions to raise production. I spoke to you about the efforts we must make to achieve our economic and political goals.

I also urged all the country's political, economic, and social forces to work accordingly to tackle, react to, and overcome those problems. That is the great obligation we all owe to these heroic people who have resisted the imperialist aggression for 8 years.

Today, the 55th anniversary of the death of our general of free men, Augusto Cesar Sandino, this fifth session of the National Assembly is being opened. This reaffirms the Nicaraguan people's resolve to continue strengthening their constitutional regime.

There have been new developments in Central America in the days after I presented a report to you here on 29 January. A meeting took place in El Salvador at which the Central American presidents—taking into account the particular conditions of each Central American country, but based on a commitment we all made when we signed the peace plan—decided to take a new step; a firm, courageous step for our peoples' self-determination and independence.

With that in mind, on 14 February we signed an important document in El Salvador's La Paz Department. We Central American presidents, who are obliged to fully comply with the peace plan, supported unilateral and sovereign actions taken by the Nicaraguan Government. At the same time, we supported the proposal Nicaragua presented to the Honduran president to dismantle the counterrevolutionary bases in Honduran territory; we also supported the Honduran president. The five Central American presidents promised to work, in a 90-day period, for the dismantling of counterrevolutionary bases in Honduran territory.

As for Nicaragua, we explained our country's stand regarding our demand for a verification mechanism on political, economic, and social rights that are as important as human rights and that must be respected in every Central American country.

Nicaragua's proposal remains firm. It calls for respected organizations, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to carry out this duty. We maintain this position, and we will continue to work so that this type of verification mechanism will be established. As far as security matters are concerned, we are already working with the UN secretary general. This is a matter that is linked to the contra presence in Honduras.

When we talk about verification mechanisms on security matters, we are asking that very specific actions be taken on Central American territory so that this territory will not be used as a base for attacking other Central American states.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met with the Central American foreign ministers, and basic agreements were reached. Based on these agreements, the UN secretary general, together with representatives of the Canadian, Spanish, and FRG Governments, as well as the OAS secretary general—after consultation with the Central American countries—will present a specific proposal on the verification mechanism so that mobile forces will be able to circulate throughout Central America to check if any territory is being used to undermine the security of other Central American states.

This mechanism under UN auspices will surely promote the decision made by the Central American presidents to dismantle the contra bases in Honduras. It will be a mechanism sponsored by the United Nations and it will involve countries that are UN Charter signatories and that have taken steps for a specific action to deal with security matters.

Regarding domestic political matters, I informed the Central American presidents about what I had previously disclosed to the representatives of the country's political parties who were willing to accept my invitation to hold bilateral talks.

Eleven leaders of political parties and groups accepted my invitation. Others rejected it; they did not want to talk.

In these talks with the political parties' leaders, I explained that the Nicaraguan Government was willing to work for actions that, after the political parties are consulted on these actions, would help strengthen a real dialogue on concrete and specific matters. The talks also touched on the elections that will be held in 1990.

We are willing to advance the date of the elections to 25 February 1990 instead of 4 November 1990. We will listen to leaders of political parties regarding their proposed amendments to laws concerning the electoral process, access to the media, the current media laws, and so forth. However, logically, these consultations must be finally discussed, debated, approved, or disapproved in this chamber, where there are representatives elected by the Nicaraguan people in the first democratic elections held in this country in November 1984. We cannot reject the people's decision. We cannot act in a totalitarian manner, rejecting what the people decided through their votes; we must reaffirm what the people expressed through their votes.

Tomorrow, I will again invite the leaders of political parties who wish to hold bilateral talks. No one is obliged to hold those talks. We want to hold those talks in a serious and constructive manner; we do not want those talks to turn into a circus or a demagogical confrontation. Instead, we want those talks to be an opportunity to listen to others and to express our views. Journalists will hear from us that we are analyzing and discussing the agreements reached in El Salvador, with no further comment.

It is important to strengthen the election process, to be able to work with the proper security and responsibility to achieve total and definitive peace in our country, and to prevent more bloodshed in our homeland, so never again will we even be threatened with the reactivation of the mercenary forces. Those who resort to those threats, those who still have their hopes in the mercenaries who are currently in bases in Honduras and who enter our territory killing children and women—as they did recently when they killed a 7-year-old boy, a woman, and two peasants at a cooperative—those who still think that way are criminals, murderers, and do not show the minimum respect for the Nicaraguan people.

This morning, we have with us Comrade (Ruth Montati), a member of the National Secretariat of the African National Congress [ANC]. She has arrived in our country representing Nelson Mandela to receive the order the Nicaraguan people granted that great leader who has struggled for his people's self-determination and independence. The Nicaraguan people granted him that order in a public assembly on 19 July 1988 in Juigalpa, Chontales Department.

This morning, we received Comrade Celso Carrizo, president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly. There are also representatives from Guatemala and the Dominican Republic here.

In its struggle against U.S. aggresion, Nicaragua has not been alone. Nicaragua has received international solidarity.

As for the struggle waged by the people of South Africa, we tell Comrade (Ruth Montati), we tell the comrades of the ANC, we tell the heroic, combative, and courageous people of South Africa: The people of Nicaragua, the people of Sandino—from this trench of dignity and sovereignty—firmly support the struggle of the people of South Africa. We are sure the day will come when that courageous and noble people represented with dignity by Nelson Mandela will break the chains of apartheid, racism, colonialism, and will be as free as the people of Sandino. [applause]

President Gives Sandino Commemoration Speech

PA2202015089 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2331 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the death of FSLN founder Augusto Cesar Sandino at the Carlos Fonseca Plaza of the Revolution, in Managua on 21 February—live]

[Text] Brothers, Sandino used to say. The FSLN members and fighters also say brothers. Workers, peasants, laborers, soldiers, women—all worthy sons of Sandino say brothers.

Yesterday our enemies, through their media, said that today, on Sandino's 55th anniversary, the FSLN was going to gather the people together in the park. They said that the people who were going to gather and who are meeting this afternoon in this Plaza of the Revolution are people hounded by FSLN threats and pressure. Those who speak this way also think and act this way because they cannot imagine that the people can be moved by conviction, by their consciences.

They are used to being led by the empire, by the lure of dollars, by the Nicaraguan people's enemies. Those of us here are those Nicaraguans who are always moved by Sandino's conscience, by his conviction, dignity, heroism, and example.

We have come together with the same strength, enthusiasm, and hope we had on 19 July 1979. We have not gathered for moral reasons, or because of promises of wealth; it is not the offer of gold that has brought the Nicaraguan people together. They have been brought together by their conviction and their awareness, which clearly tells them that this revolution belongs to them, that all of us in one way or another are the creators and actors of this revolutionary process. That is why we have gathered despite the serious difficulties the country is facing. That is why we have gathered despite the economic measures adopted precisely to save the economy, to combat inflation, and to increase production. That is why we are gathered here.

There may be many comrades here who have been laid off. These comrades, however, understand that this is a necessary measure to save the revolutionary process.

During these years of struggle, we have willingly offered our lives and, indeed, lives have been lost every day. Children and the elderly have given their lives in the confrontation with the Yankee empire. Now, however, the situation has changed. We can and should achieve total, definitive peace. Only then will the great problems created by the war and the aggression—the loss of our lives and the destruction of our economy—disappear from our country's political life.

We must focus our efforts on rebuilding the economy, cooperatives, health centers, schools, peasant homes, and our production, and on producing our daily needs, which we cannot meet because for 8 years we have been forced to confront the Yankee empire's aggressive, terrorist policy.

What can we expect after a war? Ask the peasant comrades at the cooperatives what happens when the contras attack a cooperative. The peasants are organized. They defend themselves; they fight; the men, women, and children fight; they repel and reject attacks. The cooperatives have not been occupied, but what remains after an attack? Many people are killed, the cooperatives are destroyed, homes are destroyed, crops are damaged, and the transportation provided by the revolution for the cooperatives is destroyed. After an attack, there is destruction. Year after year, following these attacks, the peasants have returned to rebuild their cooperatives, but the contras have again attacked. The peasants, however, again rebuild their cooperatives. The peasants' resolve reflects the Nicaraguan people's resolve. Even though Reagan attacked us for 8 years and caused a great deal of damage, we are willing to rise from the ashes, to rebuild the economy, to rebuild the society that the Nicaraguan people are demanding. [applause]

On 19 July 1988, all of us shouted in Juigalpa, Chontales: Reagan is leaving! The revolution is staying! Today, 21 February, we are saying together with Sandino: Reagan left, the revolution stayed! [applause]

It is because Reagan left and the revolution stayed that we are taking steps toward the so-called concerted effort, socioeconomic agreements, or a political agreement and because we also know that the international community very clealy condemns Reagan's policy—that warmongering policy. Recently, while in Caracas... [Ortega changes thought] I went to Caracas to represent this heroic people, and the affection of the Venezuelan people for the Nicaraguan people was truly impressive. I can assure you that when I talked privately to Latin American and European political leaders and heads of state and government—if I am lying, let these leaders prove me wrong—they told me clearly: We disagree with the U.S. policy on Nicaragua. We have told the U.S. leaders so. We told Reagan this when we met with him. We also told President Bush that we disagree with the policy of aggression against Nicaragua, that we cannot agree with this policy of aggression under any circumstances.

They told me: We may have views that differ from those of the Nicaraguan revolution. (?Well, I said, of course, we have differences.) You have your own program; you have your own proposals. We support them. You can take another path if you wish, and this is to be expected because every nation charts its own path or destiny. No country can tell a people what path to choose, what path to take. I told them: If you take a path we do not agree with and if we do not agree with the course other Latin American and European countries have taken, we simply will agree to have different views. Even under those circumstances—for example, in the event that you take a different course—we would never support the U.S. policy of aggression against Nicaragua because this goes against the international legal system and against the people's right to self-determination.

I found that these Latin American and European leaders upheld the principle of not accepting but rejecting the U.S. policy of aggression. These leaders have told the United States: If you attempt to resume the aid to the contras under any pretext, even if Nicaragua is said not to comply with the commitments—as the United States usually says—we will never support this policy of war and aggression against Nicaragua.

This is the opinion of the international community and that is why the International Court of Justice issued its historic ruling against the United States. However, it so happens that Reagan left and the revolution stayed because the Nicaraguan people had already decided that the revolution should stay. So, we told ourselves: It is time to call all the Nicaraguans who call themselves Nicaraguans and offer them a challenge.

We will search for a way to work together to rebuild the economy, and we will make a concerted effort to reach an agreement. We are compelled, however, to enlighten the workers, laborers, and poor people about what a nationwide concerted effort entails. This is the first thing we must do. We cannot make a concerted effort for the sake of businessmen alone. Businessmen, producers, and merchants are invited to join in the concerted effort, but the goal is to benefit workers, laborers, and peasants as much as possible.

We are making a concerted effort because the revolution is strong, because it is reasonable for all those Nicaraguans who have remained in the country, involved in production in one way or another, to start producing in a more orderly, organized way. This will give producers and businessmen credibility; it will allow them to earn the workers' trust. The government can only attempt to promote and encourage an agreement under these very complex conditions. We know there are businessmen who have drained the economy and continue to do so, but they are not a majority.

The revolution has given the peasants land to work. Our agrarian reform has been deep but it has not limited land ownership. The government's position is that anyone who produces can have land but he must produce well and he must also fulfill his duties toward the workers. The workers must be respected and their voices heard. The concerted effort to strengthen the mixed economy requires good communication between producers, workers, and government. We are moving in that direction, and I believe we have made strong progress.

We are going to strengthen our concerted economic efforts with definite actions. We must, however, keep this point in mind: Agreement does not mean reversing our gains. It does not mean that we are going to return land that has already been given to the peasants to the Somozist guards, to the Somozists, or to the big landowners who left the land idle. That is not part of the agreement. We cannot return this land. This land already belongs to the peasants.

Agreement does not mean that we are going to return the banks to the Somozists and capitalists who once owned them and transacted business deals through them, the capitalists who, when a peasant could not pay them, would take the peasant's land away. That is not part of the concerted effort. The banks, which are now administered by the state, belong to the people. This point must be clear; the banks belong to the people and will not be returned to the Somozists and capitalists.

The state-run firms, which are the people's firms, will not be returned either. This must be made clear. If some of these businessmen are so efficient and if they have so many friends abroad—even in the United States—there are enough opportunities for them to invest foreign assets back into Nicaragua. By doing so they would demonstrate that they are willing to be more productive than the state-run firms where workers have devoted hour upon hour of work, thousands of hours of work over these past few years to rebuild the same businesses that they left in a state of ruin. The concerted effort must be well understood. It strengthens our mixed economy, and the mixed economy's primary, fundamental elements are the workers, laborers, and peasants.

We also spoke about political agreement. The Central American presidents met in San Salvador recently. You must already be informed of what was agreed upon there. We will not repeat here all of the points agreed upon at this meeting. It is important, however, to make clear that we Central American presidents are obliged to comply with the peace plan. This peace plan was not drafted exclusively for Nicaragua, but for all of the Central American peoples. The problem of who complies with this plan first or who does not comply at all will have to be checked. We have proposed that this verification be made by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights so that the peace plan can move forward.

We have made very important decisions, such as our proposal to the Honduran president for disbanding the counterrevolutionaries. We have said that the contras are dead, but a dead body must still be buried. In the El Salvador meeting, we sought ways to lay this dead body to Christian rest.

In other words, we made a proposal, which was presented at the meeting by the Honduran president and welcomed and backed by the five Central American presidents, to give the U.S. Government an honorable way out. Let the contras who do not want to return to Nicaragua leave for the United States or any other country willing to receive them. Let those who so desire return to Nicaragua.

It is important to dismantle the contra organization because as long as the contras are there, trouble will follow. We know the contras cannot defeat the revolution by themselves. The contras are an instrument created by the United States. As long as the contras remain, the United States will continue to threaten Nicaragua. This is a problem. To the extent that the contras are disbanded, the U.S. threat to Nicaragua will be reduced and eventually disappear. Meanwhile, however, we should not get careless or be caught with our guard down. We should not neglect the tasks related to the country's military defense.

Also in this meeting, I announced a Nicaraguan Government decision—which was set down as such in the document—to advance more rapidly the democratic process that Nicaragua has been developing since 1969—the first democratic process in the country's history. The idea is not for others to teach us or for us to give others lessons in democracy.

It is indeed true that democracy is being formed in Nicaragua for the first time; and we are doing so. Our thoughts ran as follows: The opposition groups and parties and the rightist newspapers are claiming that the FSLN is worn out and has lost the people's support, particularly because of the country's economic situation. It has been said that the people have turned their backs on the FSLN.

We are the ones who are strong, not the opposition. We have the people's support. The opposition has said: Because we have the people, the government and the National Assembly have to amend 17 articles in the Constitution. But we have said the Constitution cannot be amended because this would be antidemocratic. The people voted for the Constitution for the second time in 1984, after voting for it in 1979 with their blood by overthrowing Somoza's dictatorshiop. In 1984, the people voted for the FSLN.

The Constitution emerged from these democratic, free, honest, and clean elections, which were watched by hundreds of observers. So how can we amend a Constitution that derived from a popular vote? This would be antidemocratic; it would indeed be a totalitarian, dictatorial action.

Therefore, the opposition's positions—which are manipulated by the Yankee empire—are completely totalitarian. They think that it is a question of reaching compromises, as was done with Somoza in the past—a compromise and that was that. This is not the issue. We will not amend the Constitution. There cannot be any amendments to the Constitution until the people say otherwise. There will be amendments to the Constitution on the day the people say: Let us amend the Constitution. [applause]

Therefore, since they are proposing amendments to the Constitution that would lean to the right, maybe it will occur to the people to propose amendments to the Constitution that would lean to the left. This depends on the people's will. [applause]

We are no longer afraid of constitutional amendments. Constitutional amendments are contemplated in the new Constitution, but we must respect what the Constitution says. It says how many [presidential] terms have to pass before the Constitution is amended.

So we said.... [Ortega corrects himself] Well, these people said that we are washed out, that the FSLN has no popular backing whatsoever. This means that they feel they are strong and can defeat us in an election. The elections were scheduled for 4 November 1990. We said: They say they have the people's support. They say the FSLN has no popular backing, and, in addition, that they want to amend the Constitution. What could be a better opportunity than to advance the date of the elections and to let them defeat us? [Word indistinct] defeat us? [crowd shouts; applause]

We told the Central American presidents that we had decided to propose that the elections be advanced to 25 February 1990. Yes, let us see to whom the people will give their support. Will they give it to the opposition, which has been manipulated by the Yankees? [crowd shouts: "No!"] Or will they give it to the FSLN? [crowd shouts: "Yes!"; applause] (?We) are convinced of that. [indistinct shouts from crowd; applause]

What these people want is to control the government, to take power again in a convenient, antidemocratic way. They had first pinned all their hopes on the contras and on the Yankee invasion. Now, since they are losing the contras and all they would have left would be a Yankee invasion, and since they know that the Yankee invasion would provoke a new situation that would not be good for anybody, they are clinging to the so-called constitutional amendments. Simply put, what they want is for the people to pull back and give room to them without having to take up the challenge of running in an election.

Let us see how the opposition parties respond, because immediately after we announced that we would advance the elections to 25 February, some began saying no. So, what do they want? We do not know what they want. Well, they know the people will not vote for them in an election. Therefore, since they know the people will not vote for them, all they want is—by sheer constitutional amendments and a number of political maneuvers—for the government to be turned over to them. They do not realize that they would not be able to govern for a single day. They would not be able to withstand the popular pressure, which is the people's pressure.

However, the challenge has been offered: elections on 25 February. This is our challenge. We will submit to the people's vote on 25 February. Let us see to whom the people will give their votes on 25 February. Let us see if the opposition parties, which claim to have the people's support, are prepared to take up this challenge. [crowd shouts] This is the true situation. The truth is that they do not want elections. Just like the comrade said: We will crush the right on the 25th, the 4th, or any date. That is why these people do not want elections. Our comrade composed a perfect motto. [crowd shouts; applause]

We have invited the parties to talk. However, we wanted to talk with you before opening the talks with the parties, because it would not be democratic for us to begin talks with the opposition parties without [first] talking with the majority of the Nicaraguan people. [crowd shouts]

We will see, we will see [Ortega repeats himself] whether the opposition parties will accept the dialogue or not. They initially demanded a dialogue, but we will wait and see what they will do now that we have invited them to hold talks. Perhaps they will be afraid to talk. Whoever feels sure of his beliefs and ideology should not be afraid to talk. We will see how they will react.

These are the great actions that we recently carried out, and the ultimate goal is great: The achievement of peace as demanded by the Nicaraguan people. Some things that have happened have been like bitter medicine, but we must accept them. There are approximately 2,000 of the so-called political prisoners in Nicaragua. They are politicians, after all, because they are grouped around a policy, the U.S. policy. The Yankee empire carried out its policy in Nicaragua and organized the Somozist Guard, and the peasants who later joined the National Guard became soldiers, officers, sergeants, etc. They are, consequently, victims of the Yankee government's policy, but they perpetrated crimes. That is why they were imprisoned. They were not executed. The revolution was lenient. Some of the guardsmen who participated in crimes are still in jail. They killed Carlos Fonseca, Pedro Arauz, and dozens of comrades. They also killed Camilo [Ortega]. They are still in jail. We did not execute them either.

Since we are sure of the steps we take and since the people understand these steps perfectly well, we have stated our willingness to release—through a pardon that we will send on 28 February to the National Assembly—approximately 1,700 Somozist Guardsmen. Many of them will no longer be Somozists. Perhaps they were never Somozists. They were an instrument of Somozism. We will not say now that they were little angels. We will not rush to embrace them—our generosity does not go this far—but we will release them.

This will leave the contras—approximately 2,000—who are stil in jail. We will release them to the extent that the contra organization is dismantled, to the extent it is buried. Many are peasants who are victims of the Reagan policy. Reagan is the one who has them in jail, not us. Reagan made them become counterrevolutionaries. He is the one who turned them into counterrevolutionaries, who has them in jail. The Yankees and the policy of the Yankee government has kept the Somozists in jail for the past 10 years. Some of the guardsmen will surely come out wishing to work, and we will have to give them the opportunity to join the work. Others will come out not wishing to work or to stay in Nicaragua. Therefore, they will be allowed to leave. So much the better if they do not stay in Nicaragua. However, we are doing this because we want to put an end once and for all to the suffering, the war.

We are doing it so other mothers' hearts are not broken by the death of a son, so there is no more suffering. We know that these measures, these actions, must be assimilated and understood. We must understand them. The mind will allow us to understand them even if the heart does not accept it. The mind will tell us that this is correct even if the heart rejects it and says no. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassins are still in jail. I do not know if those at the newspaper who have been demanding the Somozist guardsmen's release will also request a pardon for Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's assassins.

We will release the assassins of Carlos Fonseca; so under the circumstances, the normal thing would be to also free the assassins of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. It is they who have pleaded for the release of these assassins —those who have the newspaper and other opposition groups.

Anyway, these steps are being taken to drive out the U.S. aggression policy. However, the United States must learn from these lessons and seek respectful relations with large and small Latin American and Caribbean countries, instead of talking—as high-ranking members of the U.S. Government are talking—about implementing the policy of a very big stick and carrot in Nicaragua. The big-stick policy is now obsolete.

Reagan applied the big-stick policy in Nicaragua; Reagan assassinated and sacrificed thousands of Nicaraguans; Reagan destroyed Nicaragua's economy—but we did not beg for mercy, as he wanted. We did not say a word, as he wanted. We are here, on our own feet, firm, with Sandino, with the red and black flag of Sandino and the FSLN! [applause]

In 1932, the Yankee troops withdrew from Nicaragua, defeated by Sandino's Army. In 1933, Sandino said: Now the struggle will be more complex because we will be struggling against an enemy who cannot be seen as easily as we saw the Yankee troops. Sandino's message is still valid for us in the sense that we have defeated the U.S. war policy and have buried the contras. We are facing an enemy that manifests itself in political, ideological, and many other forms in an attempt to confuse the people, the workers, and the humble and honest people.

Sandino was assassinated on 21 February 1934. He was assassinated, and the Yankees thought they had thereby annihilated Nicaragua's chances for change. They thought that they would eternally have Nicaragua subject to their policy; they thought that they would enslave a country. They killed Sandino—that is true—but they did not kill Sandino's example, Sandino's spirit, or strength. Carlos [Fonseca] followed in Sandino's steps and founded the FSLN. We are here today with Sandino, commemorating this 55th anniversary! [applause] We are here today with Sandino, raising the red and black flag, raising the blue and white flag, raising our fists, and saying: Sandino yesterday, Sandino today, Sandino forever! Free fatherland! [crowd shouts: "Or death!"] [applause]

Ortega, Opposition To Resume Dialogue 22 Feb

PA2102140289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1226 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] There was a favorable reaction last night when it was announced that President Ortega has called for a resumption of the national dialogue, thus complying with his commitments made at the recent Central American summit in El Salvador. Ortega had been holding talks with opposition leaders prior to the summit, in

view of the favorable atmosphere for a concerted effort that has prevailed following the change of U.S. presidents. This new chapter of national dialogue for the sake of peace will begin tomorrow, according to the official announcement.

Defense Minister Reports Attack by Honduras

PA2202032089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0016 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (DPA)—The Nicaraguan defense minister today reported an attack perpetrated with rifle fire and high-powered machineguns by the Honduran Army against La Vigia military post, 2 km from Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department.

The military report states that the attack, in which Honduran soldiers used 50-mm machineguns, occurred at 0500 [1100 GMT], causing no casualties.

Over the last few weeks, the Sandinist government has discretely handled a series of incidents that have occurred on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Assembly Called to Session on Somozists' Pardon

PA2202032589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, today called deputies to a special session to discuss the draft of a pardon for former Somozist guards.

Nunez said that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has decided "to take a firm and bold step" in favor of regional peace by sending the draft of a pardon which would release approximately 1,700 former Somozist guards, in accordance with the classification established by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH).

The measure would not include the former Somozist guards who, according to the Managua government, have committed "crimes against humanity."

The former members of the defunct National Guard, an institution created by the United States in the 1920's to "defend" the Somozist regime, have been held in Nicaraguan jails since the July 1979 revolutionary victory.

Carlos Nunez announced Ortega's decision during the opening of the 5th legislative period of the National Assembly.

In the Central American presidential summit held in El Salvador on 13-14 February, Daniel Ortega promised to move up the general elections, amend laws, and release former Somozist guards, among other people [entre otros].

According to Sandinist sources, prisoners sentenced to 30 years in jail after being accused of violating the "law on the maintenance of public order and security," will be released to the extent that the regional presidents' plan is implemented. According to the plan, the contras in Honduras will be disbanded in exchange for Nicaragua's democratization.

The Central American presidents established a 90-day deadline for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, or relocation of the contras and their families in Nicaragua or in third countries.

Panama

Alleged U.S. Support for Opposition Scored

PA2002222289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

["Setting the Course" commentary read by Luis Danilo Caballero]

[Text] U.S. meddling in Panama's domestic affairs is becoming increasingly offensive, although under current circumstances it enables us to get an idea of the fate that may befall the country in the hypothetical case that the opposition wins the next election. History will remember that the opposition ticket, composed of Messrs Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, emerged from an agreement between U.S. political interests and people who have no scruples about reaching power. Washington's acceptance of that slate perpetuates its absurd policy of continuing to recognize Eric Arturo Delvalle's nonexistent government and ignoring, mindless of international opinion, the Solis Palma administration.

The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] candidates have become a priority concern for the U.S. Embassy staff, as can be seen in the latter's open and brazen participation in all of the ADOC's public appearances. One gets the impression that U.S. diplomats must conduct on-site inspections of each and every one of the opposition's various political appearances so everything the candidates do and say will fall strictly within the U.S. plan of supporting the ADOC candidates. The opposition campaign's actions and speeches reiterate the demagogic strategy Washington has implemented against our country and authorities since the beginning of the crisis that stemmed from U.S. aggression.

Lacking a realistic platform and bereft of solid and defined ideological principles, the ADOC speakers repeat the slogans they have been using since 1968 without expanding their power to rally the people. Still, they have managed to give the impression they have the United States' obsequious support, though this may refute their pitiful disavowals of any kind of meddling. It is worth asking: How will the opposition conduct itself if it should win in May? Those who think the United States

pledged its support to the local opposition out of a healthy desire to see democracy reinforced in our country are simply turning themselves into the laughingstocks of history.

The U.S. Government lied when it said it wanted democracy in Chile by seeking to topple Salvador Allende's constitutional government. The United States lied when it claimed to foster democracy in the Philippines by backing Corazon Aquino. Washington lied when it talked of democracy while invading Grenada. In Chile, the Philippines, and Grenada the United States was not acting any differently than when it staged a coup against Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala or helped topple governments of various political ideologies in Latin America if it suited its imperialist interests.

The United States lies when it says it is working for democracy in our country. That is false, and the world knows it. The best proof of that can be seen in the irrefutable argument that if the current Panamanian Government's patriotic and nationalist stance were not at odds with Washington's current geopolitical interests, no one could say who the allies of the Panamanian opposition would be. The U.S. collusion with the civic opposition is a temporary issue in that country's hemispheric interests. The United States cares very little about people like Endara, Arias Calderon, or Ford. It really wants the only thing the civic opposition can offer as booty: the mortgaging of national sovereignty through the total revision of the Panama Canal treaties, which compel Washington to leave the Panama Canal in 1999. That is what it is all about. Besides, it is politically advantageous for our nationalist forces that U.S. diplomats do not even have the good taste to hide their personal tutelage of the ADOC candidates' movements and public appearances. It confirms what the people of Panama already know; namely, that unfortunately some Panamanians are ready to sacrifice the fatherland. However, these few never learn the lesson that subservience has in store for them, which always leads to the path of defeat.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Newspaper Reports

PA1702140389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] The more U.S. newspapers increase their influence and circulation, the more careless their reports become. The absence of ethics is obvious. Just as allegiance to Hippocrates' oath marks good doctors, ethics mark good reporters' everyday activities.

These newspapers present as pieces of information short news items drafted by the disinformation system, the dark 1,000-headed monster that operates from Washington. Whenever the State Department wants to hurl more mud and poison at Panama, it pulls out a drawer, selects another name, and out comes a new spokesman. This time it is John M. Goscoe, who wrote an article in the 9 February issue of THE WASHINGTON POST. The article reveals how, as Panama's electoral process progresses, the machinery of infamy increases its production of slander. Goscoe presents a terrible picture of the panic and nervousness overcoming U.S. Embassy officials in Panama, who expect the embassy to be stormed at any time and themselves to be kidnapped or murdered.

THE WASHINGTON POST, the famous multimillion-dollar Washington newspaper that has turned Margaret Graham [name as heard] into a millionairess and possesses an impressively cynical ability to lie, has portrayed the situation like this: U.S. Embassy officials are worried. They do not know from what direction the commandos who will murder them with a machinegun burst will come. Additionally, they are concerned because they cannot purchase their license plates. They have been forbidden to pay taxes to Panama's treasury. As a result, they will not be able to drive their cars in a few days.

The State Department refuses to give an opinion. The few officials who discuss Panama's case have said there is no specific plan, everything has failed, and so many mistakes have been made that it is better not to mention Panama. The truth is that these officials, portrayed as the alleged victims of the Panama Defense Forces, are Miller, Cynthia Farrell, John Maisto, and Arthur Davis. They and more than a dozen seditious persons, showing their ultimate nerve, have participated in demonstrations for the servile Crusade. They are not diplomatic officials but destabilizing agents. Yet Panama has never taken any action against them. We have been patient and confident and have tolerated all provocations.

At the end of his article, Goscoe said the U.S. position in Panama is so complicated that the U.S. Government will wait for the elections to see if things will calm down, because they are afraid of erring again. Goscoe concludes that the store of errors has been exhausted. Of course it has been exhausted with the escalation of aggression spurred on by that sad gentleman, Tuturo Delvalle. On 3 March, we will devote a full program to the dark time when Tuturo signed decrees in English; seized Air Panama, the local airline; and his beloved wife requested the presence of the Marines to resolve the chaos in the country. Let us keep this date, 3 March, in mind. Meanwhile, the world sails through the limitless void. We want to see posters and lampoons and hold meetings. We want the election campaign to be carried out and the electoral climate to precede a great democratic victory for the Panamanian people.

Ministry Seizes Rental Cars; Link to U.S. Army

PA1802172789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2343 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Eduardo Marquez, general manager of Budget Rent-A-Car, has made a statement regarding the investigations of his company carried out by Finance and

Treasury Ministry inspectors over the past 2 days. Marquez said Budget is under investigation because vehicles are being rented to Americans.

[Begin Marquez recording] On 1 October 1988, Budget Rent-A-Car signed a contract to rent vehicles to the U.S. Army. This is allowed by Panamanian laws, and it is provided for in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Following our signing of the contract, a series of investigations began regarding the vehicles being used by the Americans. Yesterday afternoon, we were visited by some inspectors from the Finance and Treasury Ministry's Tax Investigations Division, who wanted to verify if the customs documents issued for those vehicles were in order. We showed them all the relevant documents, which were all in order and which had been stamped by Finance and Treasury Ministry officials. They left but later returned with an order to confiscate all the vehicles that were parked in our lot. The vehicles were taken to the National Directorate of Land Traffic and Transportation, where they are being held by the Customs Directorate. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rental Car Association Protests

PA2002225889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p A-9

["Communique No 1" issued by the Panamanian National Rental Car Association; date and place not given]

[Text] In view of recent incidents we, the National Rental Car Association, wish to express to the public our unrestricted support of Budget Rent-A-Car of Panama, S.A., one of our associates, which is a duly registered company with a license to provide rental vehicles in accordance with current Panamanian laws.

We have learned that the government, as represented by Finance and Treasury Ministry officials, came to Budget Rent-A-Car offices and examined documents relating to vehicles that, in response to a U.S. contract solicitation, were rented to the U.S. Government, whose troops are stationed in the canal area in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

We want to state that the law allows companies to provide this service. In the past, several of our associates have submitted bids to U.S. contract solicitations. This was the first time Budget won the contract.

The authorities are investigating if the aforementioned rental cars comply with current regulations. From the documents we have received, we understand that the vehicles comply with these regulations. Nevertheless, customs officials, under orders from their superiors, indiscriminately confiscated 16 vehicles that have nothing to do with the vehicles rented under the aforementioned contract with the U.S. Government. No reason was given for the investigation.

In view of this situation, we strongly protest and demand that the government reconsider the measures it has taken.

It is also important to take the following points into account:

1. Our associates make significant contributions in municipal and national taxes.
2. Budget Rent-A-Car, for example, has over 80 employees. Their families depend on those employees.
3. Additional services, such as repair work, painting, body work, spare parts, etc., represent the source of income for many other families.
4. The frequent purchase of new vehicles, with the resulting payment of import taxes, contributes to our country's development.
5. We provide a service to the community. In addition to the service we provide to local and foreign tourists, we help many people in the countryside through the efficient distribution of cash.

We hereby request support from all private businesses and associations that deal with tourism.

U.S. Soldiers Vacate Housing Ministry Lodging

PA2002150089 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] U.S. soldiers living in Diablo Heights in areas that have reverted to Panama hurriedly began moving to Albrook military base yesterday because they had not been paying rent to the Housing Ministry. On 18 February, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification had to suspend electricity service to the houses in this area for the same reason. It has been reported that this also happened in the Ancon and Balboa areas, where the soldiers have damaged the houses in reprisal.

Paper Warns of U.S. 'Spies,' 'Provocations'

PA2002145089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Feb 89 p 5

[From the unattributed "Scoops" column]

[Text] The U.S. Army and Government continue their aggressions and provocations. There is evidence of this; the gringo news agencies should report it. The United States has spies all over the place, watching, taking pictures, jotting down information, and so forth. Even so, we find them.

Argentina

Central Bank Details New Economic Measures

PY2102164789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0032 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (DYN)—The Central Bank officially reported tonight that beginning tomorrow, 21 February, the money received from industrial exports will be exchanged in the following manner: 20 percent through the free exchange market, 50 percent through the special exchange market, and 30 percent through the commercial exchange market. The Central Bank added that revenues from agricultural and livestock products exports will be exchanged as follows: 20 percent through the free exchange market, and 80 percent through the commercial market.

In a communique, the Central Bank also said that "the money received from other exports will be exchanged in this manner: 20 percent in the free exchange market, 10 percent in the special market, and 70 percent in the commercial exchange market. All these modifications will be in effect throughout March."

The exchange rates will be adjusted in accordance with the following timetable:

Industrial exports: during April, 20 percent through the free exchange market, 60 percent through the special exchange market, and 20 percent through the commercial market; during May, 20 percent through the free market, 70 percent through the special exchange market, and 10 percent through the commercial market; in June, 30 percent through the free market and 70 percent through the special exchange market.

Exports that previously were paid 100 percent through the commercial market, will now be paid in the following manner: in April, 20 percent through the free market, 10 percent through the special exchange market, and 70 percent through the commercial market; in May, 20 percent through the free market, 20 percent through the special exchange market, and 60 percent through the commercial market; in June, 30 percent through the free market, 20 percent through the special exchange market, and 50 percent through the commercial exchange market.

Other exports: in April, 20 percent will be exchanged through the free exchange market, 20 percent through the special exchange market, and 60 percent through the commercial market. In May, 20 percent will be exchanged through the free market, 30 percent through the special exchange market, and 50 percent through the commercial market; in June, 30 percent will be exchanged through the free market, 30 percent through the special exchange market, and 40 percent through the commercial exchange market.

The Central Bank has also authorized importers to purchase foreign currency at the special exchange rate on the official market to pay for common and capital goods that had cleared customs prior to 3 August 1988, whenever the original deadline for said payments had not been extended and provided they complied fully with the provisions related to the permanent survey of the foreign debt.

Moreover, the Central Bank has decided to conduct a survey into the debts for imports, regardless of the terms of payment, that were unpaid on 3 February 1989.

The Central Bank has also established that foreign currency loans to finance exports through the free market exchange rate to 3 February will be paid at the rates in force when the loan disbursement was made.

According to the timetable, the loans will be paid in the following manner:

The loans will be repaid through the free market exchange rate, up to the amount negotiated for repayment, at the moment the loan disbursal was made; any balance due will be paid through the official market special exchange.

The surplus, if any, will be paid through the free market exchange rate.

The Central Bank has also decided to expand the list of conditions for selling dollar-denominated public debt bonds of the 1987 series to pay pending foreign debts. The new conditions establish that the bond value will now include royalties, technical services, and profits and dividends.

Chile

Pinochet: Foreign Money Helped Opposition Win

PY2102133189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
0930 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report from Temuco by reporter Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] The opposition received 3 billion pesos from abroad to help it win the past October plebiscite. This was stated by the president of the Republic before leaving the 9th Region.

He labeled those who received the money as rats who are after money. The chief of state harshly criticized the campaign by a group of countries and organizations prior to the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

[Begin Pinochet recording] [Passage omitted] They were like rats after money, inventing incredible stories. Now, people of that kind, those [word indistinct] who deceived the people, are not honest enough to tell the truth.

They lied and continue lying. Those are the politicians. They have no principles, only a facade. [end recording]

Pinochet also said that he regretted the lies of some politicians lacking in principles. He said that 14 percent of the people voted in the plebiscite by order of the communists, and that some politicians resorted to tricks to obtain money from abroad.

[Begin Pinochet recording] They received money, yes they did. And I have proof: I will publish the evidence of those [word indistinct] on how they received money. Some day, I am not sure—they received more than $100 million, which is how much? Many million pesos.

Politicians received that money and used it to buy off the conscience of others. Those are the politicians who want to build up Chile. Those are the ones who want to make the country progress. Instead of making it progress they will take it to the edge of the precipice, and that is what all of us want to prevent. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

After being made chief of chiefs of the Mapuche Indians, the president returned to Santiago, thus concluding the tour of the 9th Region he began on 14 February. He toured nearly the whole region together with his wife and a small entourage of ministers and one under secretary.

Foreign Minister To Leave for Hirohito's Funeral
PY1802181589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz will leave for Japan this evening to represent the Chilean Government at the funeral of late Emperor Hirohito. The minister said that during his stay in Tokyo, in addition to meeting with Japanese authorities, he will meet with foreign ministers and officials of other nations. [passage omitted]

Rocket Found Aimed at Diego Portales Building
PY2101174280 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Report from mobile unit by Reinaldo Garrido]

[Text] Members of the Carabineros Special Operations Group, GOPE, have deactivated a LAW [light antiarmor weapon] rocket that was found by a worker on top of the Santa Lucia hill at 0830 today. The rocket bore a Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] inscription, and was aimed at the Diego Portales building.

According to unofficial sources, a worker from the Santa Lucia Hill cleaning and gardens department found a strange object which turned out to be the LAW rocket bearing FPMR inscription. The rocket was aimed at the Diego Portales building and it was set to go off at an unspecified time.

GOPE personnel deactivated it and they are currently showing it to the media. We are waiting for an official Carabineros communique.

Falklands' Ferry Arrives in Punta Arenas
PY2002142389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Report from Punta Arenas by Rene Sigley]

[Text] The "Indiana I" arrived in Punta Arenas. Its arrival has caused political and labor conflict, but that has now been resolved. The ship will be serviced normally, like any other ship in Chilean ports. The "Indiana I" made the Port Stanley-Punta Arenas trip in 32 hours, and it required the services of a guide to go through the strait. The ship is not carrying cargo for Punta Arenas.

There are six businessmen from the Malvinas Islands on board, who have come to carry out business in the 12th Region. They will purchase construction material, food, clothes, car fuel, liquid gas, and—most importantly—prefabricated houses for the Malvinas Islands. One of the businessmen is a top manager from Stanley Service Co, the main supplier for fishing boats and ships that operate in the South Atlantic.

The ship will be serviced by the Andes and Co, Ltd, whose regional agent, Francisco Cardenas, has arranged meetings between British and Chilean businessmen in the area. In Punta Arenas, the ship will probably take on about 100 tons of material, supplies, and fuel bound for Port Stanley. Twenty-eight passengers, who will arrive by air in Punta Arenas, will also board the ship. Most of these passengers are crew members of ships that operate in the South Atlantic, and they have no other means of getting to work.

Tocopilla Remains Belong to Prehistoric Indians
PY2002185839 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The human skeletons found last January on the grounds of the Chilean Chemical and Mining Company, SOCHIMICH, in Tocopilla Port, are from a prehistoric Indian cemetery. This was announced this morning by the relatives of missing persons organization, which reported the conclusions of a study carried out by foreign anthropologists who examined the bones.

Lawyer Pamela Pereira said the experts' report was conclusive and ruled out the possibility that the bodies belonged to missing political prisoners who were killed after the 1973 coup. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Borja Discusses Group of Eight, U.S. Relations

PA2002040089 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p A-1

[Text] Guayaquil, 8 Feb—President Rodrigo Borja has said Ecuador possesses all the necessary credentials to join the Group of Eight because his government is quickly restoring the country's international prestige.

Before leaving for El Oro Province, where he personally inspected the damage caused by recent floods, Borja said this change of image has occurred after a period of isolation and of low blows dealt by the previous government to other Latin American countries. As examples of those actions, Borja mentioned the lack of solidarity, as well as the way the previous government had applauded the Reagan administration's statement that it would bring OPEC to its knees, administered the coup de grace to the Andean Pact, and called the Group of Eight an "insignificant group." Borja added that the necessary efforts are being made to reintegrate Ecuador into international life and to have its voice heard with respect.

Borja stressed that Ecuador has the necessary credentials to join the Group of Eight, such as having a democratic government supported by the people that directs the country's destiny with honesty and good judgment and that observes an irreproachable international conduct.

However, he noted that Ecuador's membership in the Group of Eight is a complicated matter that must be handled with tact by the presidents who favor it. He added that in addition to Ecuador, other countries have also asked to be admitted to the group.

Borja said Ecuador's current relations with the United States are good. He said he met in Caracas with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, with whom he reviewed bilateral relations, stressing the fact that the United States is our main commercial partner, as it receives 60 percent of our exports. For that reason, we maintain good relations with that country; however, those relations must be within the framework of mutual respect and nonintervention in our domestic affairs, Borja said.

Borja categorically said the country does not need economic tutors or supervisors, denying reports that an IMF delegation is currently in the country to supervise the nation's economy. He said that every year both the IMF and the World Bank evaluate the economies of all countries in the world, and that in order to conduct those studies they send experts to obtain official data to prepare their reports.

"They (the IMF experts) have not met with me; we have not asked them to approve our economic measures. We will never let them decide our country's policies as we are a sovereign country that has a right to make its own decisions freely and independently," Borja stressed.

He reported that during his trip to Venezuela, he received $185 million in credits to be used for various economic projects and that he brought the first disbursement of $11 million to initiate a fishing development project, in addition to a $25 million long-term credit for the same project.

Borja, who arrived in this city to inspect the coastal areas damaged by floods, said the government is taking care of the problems and that the danger is over.

Borja Interviewed on Economic, Political Issues

PA1602032889 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Feb 89 pp 1, 8-A

[Interview with President Rodrigo Borja by Daniel Samper Pizano in Quito; date not given]

[Text] [Samper] What is Ecuador's situation after the oil boom and bust and after the 4 years of the Leon Febres-Cordero administration?

[Borja] Both situations, one economic and the other political, have had negative effects on the country. This was so because the first situation produced a reliance on oil that made the government leaders used to easy money and to squandering funds. The second situation left in its wake a lack of respect for the symbols and institutions of our democracy.

[Samper] Will it be very difficult for Ecuador to recover from those two circumstances?

[Borja] It will not be easy, but it must be done. We are constantly fighting to overcome adversity and to open possibilities for social justice and freedom for our people.

[Samper] If you compare today's Ecuador with Ecuador 10 or 15 years ago, would you say that its situation has deteriorated?

[Borja] In some respects it has. Our people's quality of life has deteriorated; inflation has wreaked havoc among the poor; the foreign debt stifles our development; the population explosion makes everything more difficult. In short, in some aspects there has been a regression, but, to be fair, we must also state that in other aspects we have made progress. Our economy has become diversified and modernized; there has been progress in projects relating to the economic and social infrastructure; some production sectors have been strengthened; the influence of the middle class has increased; some state institutions have been modernized; and increasingly larger sectors of our population have gained awareness of the importance of democracy.

[Samper] A situation that worries observers is the fact that Ecuador is sandwiched between Colombia and Peru; one has great problems maintaining public order, and the other has, in addition to that, serious economic problems. To what extent can Ecuador avoid the problems of its neighbors?

[Borja] Fortunately, we are an oasis in the heart of a violent Latin America. We are persistently working to maintain peace. We think peace is one of our country's most important economic resources. I think we are going to be able to maintain Ecuador's isolation from the situation experienced by our neighbors. If we have been able to do so for the past 20 years, I do not see any reason why we should not continue to do so in the future.

[Samper] Colombian - Ecuadoran integration, which has been discussed for many decades, has not been legally implemented. Instead, smugglers are in fact working together. Sometimes Colombian products are smuggled into Ecuador and at other times Ecuadoran products are smuggled into Colombia; it all depends on the economy of the two countries. Has the time not come to really deal with integration between the two countries as a solution for both Colombia and Ecuador?

[Borja] Trade with Colombia has always depended on our exchange rate policies. Sometimes the contraband comes from Colombia into Ecuador and tourism flows in the opposite direction. The reverse is now occurring. Ecuadoran contraband is entering Colombia and Colombian tourists are arriving in Ecuador. The situation will stabilize only when we reach agreement on exchange rate policies between the two countries.

[Samper] Do you plan to make any proposal on this to President Barco when you meet with him in a few weeks in Bogota?

[Borja] I do not think we can find immediate solutions to this problem. What we can do is discuss it in general, preliminary terms.

[Samper] It is estimated that Colombian tourism leaves between $250 million to $300 million a year in Ecuador. Senator Daniel Mazuera Gomez recently issued a public letter in which he complained about the treatment given to tourists by both Colombian and Ecuadoran border authorities. For example, he complained about the charge in Ecuador about a nonexistent fumigation of vehicles and other abuses. Is there any plan to help resolve this situation for the tourists of both countries, which in the past were united?

[Borja] What is occurring—and we must believe the report is serious because it comes from a Colombian senator—must be corrected. The red tape, the abuses, the negligence, and worse, the corruption, are unacceptable. I promise to take immediate measures to ensure that this will not happen on our side, not only because of the old ties of affection and friendship we have with Colombia, but because it is to our own economic benefit to promote the flow of Colombian tourists.

[Samper] As a person who has always been concerned about the situation in the continent, how do you view Latin America's future?

[Borja] I am pessimistic about Latin America's future. There are several factors that lead to such an attitude: the foreign debt problem that prevents development; the protectionist policy of other countries that limits our exports; the lack of a democratic conscience among many of our political leaders, which turns them into dangerous adventurers when they handle their public administration; the population explosion that negates any hope that the state will be able to provide proper services to the people; and our lagging behind in science and technology, something that has placed us on a real process of underdevelopment and that increasingly deepens the gap between our countries and the developed countries. All of this has made me pessimistic about our America's future.

[Samper] It is said in Ecuador that the current government is not communicating with the people to clarify its goals and to explain its plans.

[Borja] I found a country that was in political upheaval, that was socially unjust, in economic chaos, administratively deficient, internationally isolated, psychologically unstable and unsure of itself. In the past 6 months of government, I have been able to stabilize Ecuador's situation; I changed its economic model, took over leadership of the economy which, in the past, had been in private hands; eliminated the system of floating the prices of the main products of the economy; gave clear and permanent rules to the economic sector; reestablished confidence about our own possibilities; began to pay the social debt to our people; reestablished administrative morality; implemented austerity; and returned Ecuador to the international arena and restored its prestige in international forums. I think that what has been achieved is the product of 6 months of intense labor, notwithstanding all the lack of understanding and the opposition that our democratic system permits, and all the mistakes that in good faith we might have committed.

[Samper] Criticism is also heard with regard to the tax measures your administration has adopted, and it is said that they might paralyze the productive and business sectors.

[Borja] That makes no sense. Unfortunately, the most sensitive part of some people is their wallets. When economic measures reduce their profits, that is the type of criticism you hear. The truth is that the economy is being planned, there is a climate of confidence in the country, and we are making efforts to establish social justice without affecting Ecuador's productive potential.

[Samper] Mr President, in the past 6 months in office, have you ever feared that a military man will install himself at some time in this same palace where you have been working since 10 August 1988?

[Borja] I do not have the least fear that such a thing will happen. Many people with strong wills are ready to defend our constitutional continuity and to extend democracy to the economic and social sectors. Among those people are the members of the Armed Forces. Subordinate as they are to civilian power, they have specific professional tasks to fulfill.

[Samper] In this interview, you have mentioned the population explosion with concern twice. Is your government planning to do something about this?

[Borja] Yes, we will adopt measures to control the population growth because with a rate close to 3.4 percent, no economic progress is able to satisfy the needs of a population with such a rapid growth.

[Samper] Do you already have specific plans for this?

[Borja] We are drafting them. They will essentially be aimed at providing education in this area. The demographic situation in our countries is a cultural problem.

[Samper] Do you think the church will oppose this campaign?

[Borja] The church has generally been opposed to specific demographic policies. However, we will find a way to implement them.

Finance Minister Scores U.S. Economic Policy

PA1702140089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0157 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Quito, 14 Feb (REUTER)—The Ecuadoran Government today said the recent increase in international bank interest rates and the drop in oil prices have reduced the country's ability to renegotiate its foreign debt.

During a news conference, Finance Minister Jorge Gallardo criticized the U.S. Government's economic policies, saying those policies are responsible for the higher cost of money in the international finance market. Gallardo said: "However willing the Ecuadoran Government is to renegotiate the foreign debt through conventional methods, it can no longer do it. The U.S. Government's anti-inflationary policy has raised the prime lending rate by half a point to 11 percent."

Gallardo also said Ecuador's ability to meet its obligations has been adversely affected by the drop in oil prices—oil is the country's leading export product—from between $25 and $27 a barrel to $13 a barrel. He added: "We will go to the United States within the next few months to make a specific refinancing proposal to our creditor commercial banks."

He failed to specify, however, whether the proposal will include a tentative agreement with the IMF, a request to the creditor banks for new loans, or a government program to refinance the foreign debt. He pointed out: "I can say, however, that the renegotiation will be carried out with long-term, unconventional policies that will not affect the country's economic and social stability."

Ecuador, whose foreign debt has reached $11.034 billion, has fallen behind since January 1987 in its payments to commercial banks, to which the country owes $6.5 billion.

Gallardo said today: "We are up-to-date in our payments to multilateral financial organizations and to the Paris Club, but no payments have been made to commercial banks."

European Parliament To Discuss Latin Debt

PA1102030489 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 89 p A-3

[Text] National Congress Chairman Wilfrido Lucero said Ecuador will cooperate in forming the Central American parliament at the request of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. Lucero attended a meeting in San Jose of Latin American and European parliament presidents.

Lucero said he signed there a political, cultural, and social interparliamentary cooperation agreement supporting the European Parliament's dealing with the foreign debt problem that encumbers the Latin American countries.

Lucero, who assumed the vice presidency of the republic yesterday, said that at the request of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the Ecuadoran parliament will support the establishment of the Central American parliament, a project that has bogged down for lack of political determination in the area's parliaments.

He said he held initial talks with Costa Rican legislators, urging them to begin changing their attitudes. He said the creation of the Central American parliament can be one way to solve conflicts in the region.

Lucero said President Arias also asked for his intervention in promoting the peace plan that bears his name.

Concerning the cooperation of the European Parliament in facing the problem of the Latin American foreign debt, Lucero said this help would consist of seeking, together with the American parliaments, a change in the conditions in which the debt's treatment develops—

"That is, we are not to be forced to sacrifice the legitimate interests of our people because we pay the foreign debt or because we faithfully comply with the payment of the debt."

Lucero emphasized the democratic passion Venezuela is experiencing as a result of President Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration. He said Venezuela has become a great democratic stage visited by presidents and representatives of different nations from Latin America, Europe, and other parts of the world.

He regretted not having participated in those celebrations, to which he was personally invited by the Venezuelan president. Lucero remained in Ecuador to carry out responsibilities here because of President Rodrigo Borja's trip.

Government in Favor of Cuba Returning to OAS
PA1902025489 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 89 p A-1

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Mario Aleman has said Ecuador would vote in favor of Cuba's return to the OAS. He made this remark in response to this newspaper's query regarding the government's position on this matter. [passage omitted]

Operations Launched Against Armed Groups
PA1802174989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1526 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Quito, 18 Feb (DPA)—A large operation to confiscate weapons has been launched following reports of the existence of heavily armed paramilitary groups, the Ecuadoran Armed Forces announced today. The military warned it will dismantle "all armed groups."

"We will strongly defend individual and collective security," Defense Minister General Jorge Felix said. The announcement is seen as reflecting the determination of President Rodrigo Borja's Social Democratic government to prevent an outbreak of violence.

Gen Felix made that statement 3 days after a group of heavily armed gunmen prevented the arrest of Miguel Orellana—charged with embezzlement of public funds—which had been ordered by the Supreme Court of Justice. The armed group, reportedly under the orders of former conservative President Leon Febres Cordero, carried submachine guns and large-caliber rifles. Orellana is former President Febres' son-in-law and was his private secretary.

The existence of extreme-right-wing paramilitary groups under Febres Cordero's orders was widely rumored in Ecuador, but until today the Armed Forces had not admitted these groups existed. The former president, whose term ended in August 1988, lives in a country house in the outskirts of Guayaquil. The house has been turned into a veritable fortress and might be where Orellana is hiding after escaping from the police. hl

Various Strikes Suspended, Resolved, Planned
PA1502165889 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] One of the strikes currently affecting several groups in the country ended yesterday after successful negotiations. Meanwhile, another de facto strike was temporarily suspended, and a general strike by doctors beginning on 21 February was confirmed.

With the signing of a transactional document, the internal conflict between the administration of the National Post Office and its workers ended. Meanwhile in Paute, part of the population temporarily suspended a strike declared to demand the Public Works Ministry finish the construction of the road between Guarumales and Mendez. It was decided to postpone the strike until 21 February, although six communities east of Paute, near the Paute hydroelectric plant, decided to continue the strike until Minister Juan Neira travels to Paute and fulfills their demands.

In addition, the Ecuadoran Doctors Federation National Directorate confirmed an indefinite national strike beginning on 21 February, which will be held to force the authorities to listen to their economic, labor, and professional demands.

Rain Damages Banana Crop, Exports To Drop
PA1602005589 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 6 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Jacinto Castro]

[Summary] Machala—Area farmers estimate that banana exports will drop considerably this season as a result of the heavy rains that have severely affected El Oro Province during the past 10 days. According to the farmers, the floods unleashed by the heavy rains have destroyed approximately 10,000 hectares of banana plantations, equivalent to 30 percent of the export crop.

A report from the Public Works Ministry regional directorate notes that landslides prompted by the rain in Azuay Province have considerably damaged the Giron-Pasaje highway and destroyed crops.

Plagues Cause Coffee Exports To Decrease
PA1702233589 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 6

[Summary] According to a recent report in the "Consulconti" business bulletin, Ecuadoran coffee exports have decreased considerably over the last 2 years. The report states that Ecuador exported only $144,640 from January to October 1988, as opposed to $192,286 in 1987. The report attributes this decrease to the destruction of crops by plagues such as stalk and rust disease, which have led to a drop in Ecuador's coffee production. The

report adds that the two plagues have destroyed at least 200,000 hectares of coffee, which amounts to 50 percent of the country's cultivated land.

New Province Created on Colombian Border

PA1802041689 Quito EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 7 Feb 89 p 7

[Summary] A plenary session of the legislature has decided to take part of the Napo Province territory along the Colombian border and create the country's 21st province. The new province, Sucumbios Province, will cover an area of 18,000 square km and have a population of approximately 60,000. It will contain the following cantons: Sucumbios, Gonzalo Pizarro, Lago Agrio, Shushufindi, Putumayo, and Nueva Loja, which will be the province's capital.

Paraguay

Representatives to Hirohito's Funeral Named

PY1602142189 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Feb 89 p 13

[Summary] The Paraguayan Government has designated a special mission that will attend the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito.

The members of the mission are Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana, Acting 1st Army Commander Brigade General Humberto Garcete, Paraguayan Ambassador to Japan Juan Carlos Hrase Von Bergan, and mission secretary Nelson Argana.

HOY Publisher 'Under House Arrest'

PY1702211189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 12

[Text] The house of Humberto Dominguez Dibb, located on Aviadores del Chaco Avenue in the Villa Victoria neighborhood, is under police surveillance.

It has been learned that the publisher of the newspaper HOY, better known as "HDD," is under house arrest.

Dominguez Dibb recently became engaged in politics, supporting the Colorado Traditionalist Movement.

Despite the fact that the house has been placed under discreet police surveillance, it is obvious that a dump truck has been deliberately parked in front of the main gate of the house.

Central Bank Authorizes Exchanges To Reopen

PY1602215989 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Feb 89 p 5

[Excerpt] By Resolution No 1 dated 15 February 1989, the Paraguayan Central Bank authorized the reopening of all money exchanges in our country. This resolution repeals an earlier decision made by former Central Bank President Cesar Romeo Acosta, who ordered the closure of all money exchanges in an effort to stop the rising price of the U.S. dollar.

Resolution No 1 states: "The Board of Directors of the Paraguayan Central Bank hereby resolves to authorize the reopening of money exchanges engaged in the buying and selling of foreign currency on the free market. These money exchanges may operate as any of the various types of corporations outlined in the Commerce Code."

The resolution, which was released to the press, describes some of the requirements that must be met by money exchanges in order to operate, such as having a minimum capital of 400 million guaranies, which would come mostly from Paraguayan citizens. The resolution adds that the Superintendency of Banks will verify the existence of this capital before the authorization is granted. [passage omitted]

Licenses Granted to Radio Nanduti, Others

PY2102223389 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Feb 89 p 13

[Text] The Executive Branch this morning promulgated Decree No 141, "allowing several AM and FM radio stations to operate." This decree benefits, among others, Radio Nanduti, which no longer faces any restrictions.

The following radio stations have been granted AM licenses: Radio Presidente Stroessner (in the city of the same name), Radio Ycua Mandyyu (San Pedro), Radio Primero de Marzo [Asuncion], Radio Mbaracayu (Pedro Jan Caballero), Radio Guaira [Villarica], Radio Comuneros [Asuncion], Radio Arapizandu (San Ignacio), Radio Panambi Vera (Villarica), Radio Asuncion [Asuncion], Radio La Voz de las Misiones [San Juan Bautista, Misiones], Radio Nanduti [Asuncion], Radio Caritas [Asuncion], and Radio Mariscal Lopez [Bella Vista].

The following stations have been granted FM licenses: Radios Cerro Cora [location unknown], Cardinal [Asuncion], Primero de Marzo, Canal 100 [Asuncion], La Voz del Amambay [Pedro Juan Caballero], Presidente Stroessner, Nanduti.

The decree adds that each license is temporary and that it must be renewed every year by request of the concessionaire, provided his radio and its operation are in line with the current legal and technical guidelines.

New Government Officials Designated

Supreme Court Members

PY1702140989 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 10

[Summary] The Council of State yesterday approved the Executive Branch decree-law that designates three new members of the Supreme Court. Minister Without Portfolio Juan Ramon Chavez presided over the meeting, during which the executive branch proposal was approved unanimously.

The new members of the Supreme Court are Luis Alberto Correa, Albino Garcete Lambiace, and Benito Pereira Saguier. They will replace Hiran Delgado Von Leppel, Carlos Baez Renfeld, and Luis Fernando Sosa.

Foreign Ministry, Others

PY1602143788 Asucnion PATRIA in Spanish
16 Feb 89 p 7

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry has released Decree No 70 which designates Victor Giuzio as Director of State Ceremonies, a position that is currently vacant.

The same decree names Hernando Arteta as State Ceremonies Deputy Director in replacement of Victor Giuzio. [passage omitted]

The Executive Branch has released decree No 82 by which Lieutenant Colonel DEM [General Staff Degree] Silvestre Aquiles Vega Bogado is named commander of the Center of Military Training for Special Operations (CIMOE). He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Secundino Morel Garay.

Decree No 34 confirms Dr Braulio Machuca Vargas as Immigration Department Director General.

Decree No 85 names Navy Captain Anibal Gino Pertile as president of the Administration Council of the State Merchant Fleet, replacing Oscar Johannsen. The seniority of Gino Pertile will be counted from the date of this decree in accordance with Article 6 of Law 1199, dated 23 December 1966.

The Executive Branch also issued Decree 84 accepting the resignation of Commerce Under Secretary Luis Ramon Ortiz Ramirez and naming William Wilka to replace him.

Public Health Under Secretary

PY1702140789 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
17 Feb 89 p 13

[Summary] Dr Ruben H. Mallorquin, who was appointed by resolution No 2 of the Public Health Ministry, has assumed the post of health under secretary. The ceremony was held in the presence of Public Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo and several Health Ministry officials.

Governors to IMF, IBRD, IDB

PY1802181389 Asucnion EL DIARIO in Spanish
18 Feb 89 p 12

[Summary] Yesterday President Andres Rodriguez promulgated Decree 93, naming Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval as governor to the IMF and Central Bank Director Carlos Alberto Knapps as deputy governor. Yesterday President Rodriguez also signed Decrees 94 and 95, naming Finance Minister Enzo Doldan as governor to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank, and Finance Under Secretary Oscar Jacinto Ovelar as deputy governor to the same institutions.

National Tourism Council Director Resigns

PY1602181389 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
16 Feb 89 p 13

[Summary] Yesterday, Jorge Patricio Escobar Genes, the director of the National Tourism Council and Tourism director general, submitted his resignation to Public Works Minister Porfirio Ruiz Diaz. Escobar has been at the head of the National Tourism Council since 1974.

Released Chilean Journalist Comments on Torture

PY1602181189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
16 Feb 89 pp 14, 15

[Quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Alejandro Mella Latorre, who was allegedly involved in the violent assassination of former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza on 17 September 1980 in Asuncion, will be released this morning following the signing of an order by Judge Tito Medina, at the end of a long legal episode.

During a news conference at the 5th Police Station yesterday, the Chilean journalist described the ordeal that he had endured for almost 9 years. He said that he was tortured on several occasions, but he always pleaded not guilty. [passage omitted]

Mella Latorre mentioned the names of those who tortured him: Inspector General Alberto Cantero, Mario Agustin Sapriza Nunez, a man surnamed Belotto, Pastor Coronel and other policemen whom he identified by their surnames, like Bazan, Rojas, and Lopez. Mella Latorre said that the "team" consisted of about 40 persons.

Asked whether he feels enmity against those who tortured him, he said "I feel pity, I harbor no enmity against them." [passage omitted]

He said that he does not understand what happened after he signed a statement in which he pleaded "guilty." A military commission of three generals was created: Guillermo Clebsch, Benito Guanes Serrano, and Alberto Johansen. There was a confrontation between the Investigations Department, which maintained that his "statement" was valid, and the military commission, which believed that the case was impossible, that he had nothing to do with it, and that everything was, as General Johansen put it, "a maneuver." [passage omitted]

PRF Exile Returns Home After 27 Years
PY1702182589 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 7

[Excerpt] Arturo Acosta Mena, a veteran Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] leader, yesterday returned to the country after 27 years in exile. Numerous PRF members and friends went to the bus terminal to welcome Acosta Mena. [passage omitted]

New Weekly EL LIBERAL PARAGUAYO Published
PY1802180989 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 89 p 7

[Summary] The first issue of EL LIBERAL PARAGUAYO, a weekly newspaper owned and directed by Reinaldo Oddone, appeared on the newsstands yesterday.

Peru

Railway Workers Strike; Demonstrations Reported
PY2202005189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2209 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb (EFE)—The Peruvian workers of the National Railway Service and of the passenger and cargo services to Bolivia and Chile today went on strike over salary demands, leaders of the sector have reported.

In addition to the 5,000 railway service strikers, at least 60 percent of the 450,000 public servants are on strike. They have been on strike for 3 weeks, demanding the 77-percent salary increase that the government approved last year.

The National Railway Enterprise union press secretary, Juan Laynes, said that at least 30,000 passengers will be affected each day of the strike, while some 20,000 tons of cargo, food, and minerals will not be shipped to Lima.

The strike will also affect the transportation services used by Bolivia and Chile for their imports and exports and the transporation of passengers on Peruvian border zones.

A spokesman for Centromin-Peru [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise] told EFE that they will use land transportation in order to continue shipping minerals for export from the central mountain range to the port of Callao.

Laynes said that the union demanded a 120-percent increase which would raise salaries to 600,000 Intis ($461).

Prime Minister Armando Villanueva today reiterated that public servants will be paid the 77-percent readjustment between February and May, but this was rejected by the wokers.

Workers today resumed street demonstrations and brief peaceful occupations of public buildings. They were repressed by antiriot police, who used clubs, rifles with birdshot, and water cannons.

A public servant leader reported that the number of workers who are fasting to support the demands today grew to 50.

Today is also the 2d day of the "armed strike" that the Maoist Shining Path has declared in the Andean province of Ayacucho. Neither the political-military command of the army nor the "Rodrigo Franco" rightist command could prevent the armed strike on its 1st day.

Czechoslovak Trade Official Ends Visit
PY2102220689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Czechoslovak Domestic Trade and Tourism Minister [title as heard] (Josef Prat) early this morning ended a short visit to Lima. The main purpose of the visit was to review the possibility for Peruvian producers to operate in the Czechoslovak market.

Uranium Exploitation in Puno Planned
PY2002194489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] European and Asian concerns have expressed interest in participating in the exploitation of a uranium deposit discovered in Macusani, in Puno Department. Reserves have been estimated at 50,000 metric tons. Following preliminary prospecting work, including trenches, test tunnels, test pits, and some drilling work, about 3,500 tons of uranium ore have been initially blocked out.

Uruguay

Union To Refuse To Load Falklands-Bound Ships
PY2102022389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0016 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Feb (AFP)—The PIT-CNT labor central has announced that Uruguayan port workers will not load any ship that makes a stopover in Montevideo on its way to the Malvinas Islands, PIT-CNT leaders said today.

During a news conference held to explain the position the PIT-CNT will adopt in the face of the arrival in Montevideo of the "Indiana I," which sails under a Panamanian flag from the Malvinas Islands, the PIT-CNT reiterated the position that it adopted when the ship arrived in Montevideo 1 month ago.

PIT-CNT leader Felix Diaz said that Uruguayan port workers will not load the "Indiana I" and that "if the shipping statement of any ship says that the destination is the Malvinas Islands, the ship will not be loaded."

Diaz stressed that if reprisals are taken against the workers, there will be an immediate implementation of the accord signed in January by the PIT-CNT, Argentina's CGT [General Confederation of Labor], and Chile's CUT [Central Labor Union] for the paralyzation of maritime transportation between Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

Colorado Party Supports Law of Expiration

PY1702140389 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The Colorado Party Executive Committee has reiterated its support for the Law of Expiration, the peaceful coexistence of all sectors, and the full development of all democratic institutions, and it has exorted all citizens not to repeal the law in question.

After a meeting at party headquarters to discuss details of the campaign to support the Law of Expiration in the April plebiscite, a communique was issued.

The communique says that when the people vote whether to repeal the Law of Expiration on 16 April, they will also have to decide between peace or confrontation, between division or reconciliation, between tolerance or hate, between magnanimity or a spirit of revenge, between building a future or a life tied to the past, between integrity or the weakening of the democratic institutions.

The communique says in the second paragraph that the Colorado Party, in accordance with the party policy established by the party's national convention, states that it will oppose the repeal of the Law of Expiration and thereby support the strengthening of peaceful coexistence and the development of all democratic institutions.

The communique says in the third paragraph that the time for hesitation has passed. It exorts all citizens to resolutely oppose the repeal of this law and to resist calmly and firmly all pressures, so as to ensure our civil liberties, peace, and the future of the nation.

Foreign Minister Leaves for New York, Tokyo

PY2002140189 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano departed yesterday from Carrasco Airport for New York, where he will (?make) a brief stopover today. He will then head for Tokyo, where he will represent Uruguay at Emperor Hirohito's funeral, which will be attended by dignitaries from all over the world.

Defense Minister on Possible Leftist Threats

PY2102004589 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Excerpt] National Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, retired, has said he does not believe that the MLN [National Liberation Movement-Tupamaros Faction] can take up arms again.

The defense minister added that the duty of any military commander is to remain alert to any type of external or internal threat.

Speaking on the seizure of the La Tablada regiment in Buenos Aires, Lt Gen Medina said that barracks in Uruguay have not (?yet) been alerted, but we are aware of the possibility of a similar action, he said. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

LE MONDE Interviews President Perez

PM1702122289 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Feb 89 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by Marcel Niedergang in Caracas—date not given]

[Text] Caracas—[Niedergang] Since you returned to power, people have been waiting for you to act—primarily the Venezuelans, of course, but also the Latin American leaders and the political and economic leaders of the industrialized countries. Is this not a rather heavy task?

[Perez] Yes, that is true. Not only does the task strike me as very difficult, but I am not sure of fulfilling all the conditions required by this task. But I have faith and a passion to serve Latin America. I have been preparing for the past 10 years to fulfill all the requirements for stepping up Venezuela's international presence.

It strikes me that I can now act with more chance of success and, in any event, I am counting on doing all I can. I am deeply convinced that our destiny will not be acted out within our national borders. Latin America now needs total integration, overcoming ideological differences, in the framework of authentic pluralism. Now that there is detente among the superpowers and the large regional groupings, Latin America must be able to speak with one voice in order to survive.

[Niedergang] Your main concern, and that of the other Latin American heads of state, is the foreign debt, which now amounts to $400 billion for the subcontinent alone.

[Perez] This is the ultimate obstacle.

It is not the only cause of all our misfortunes, because we have all frequently been guilty of bad administration. But if we do not solve the debt problem in a satisfactory

way, we will never be able to remedy past mistakes or revive our development. We must show imagination and find new solutions, because no debtor country, particularly in Latin America, can make any progress at all with the "recipes" which our creditors have hitherto imposed on us. We must start a practical dialogue with the industrialized countries as soon as possible to find new paths. I intend to move quickly.

[Niedergang] When do you plan to meet with President Bush?

[Perez] I met him in Washington in December. He was president-elect, as I was. It was a very positive conversation, from my viewpoint. We will now plan a new meeting to discuss the debt and the situation in Central America.

[Niedergang] Do you think that the Bush team's Latin American policy could be different from that of his predecessor?

[Perez] No change will be easy. Bush was Reagan's vice president and Baker was one of his main advisers. But a change in the leadership team is a great advantage in democracies, even when the same party keeps control over the executive, as is true in this case. It may make it possible to recognize mistakes and to adjust a policy. In any event, that is what I observed quite sincerely during my first meeting with Bush. He did not clearly state that he was going to take a different attitude. But he strongly hinted that he was prepared to review some matters.

[Niedergang] There is talk of President Mitterrand visiting South America again.

[Perez] It would give us great pleasure to receive him in Venezuela. He is a friend. And he is also a pioneer who has constantly drawn attention to the developing countries' basic problems and to the need for North-South dialogue. His latest proposal for easing the debt is very positive. We know that he and Felipe Gonzalez are making very serious efforts within the EC to help us find solutions to this persistent debt question and also to bring us closer to the Community. I found that Chancellor Kohl holds the same view. This opens up extraordinary prospects for us.

[Niedergang] Gorbachev is expected to visit Cuba and other South American countries in April. Is this a visit which has been postponed several times?

[Perez] I have invited him to visit Venezuela, and his Latin American tour will be welcome. The present climate of optimism in the world probably owes a great deal to the Soviet leader, whose UN speech on the debt was a model. Detente cannot just be explained by political motives. The USSR and the United States have different but imperative reasons for maintaining a long truce. This detente is very favorable to the developing countries and has facilitated the settlement of several regional conflicts. So, why not Central America?

[Niedergang] Do you believe that Cuba will be completely reintegrated into the Latin American family?

[Perez] It is starting to happen in practice. And the process of democratizing the Cuban regime's institutions is also developing. It may be happening rather slowly, but it will take place. The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is also an important element which has repercussions in the United States. I think Washington has had a much more favorable attitude to detente with the Havana government since the conclusion of agreements on Namibia and Angola. Fidel Castro is an intelligent man who has a great desire for a role in the world and in Latin America. He has naturally analyzed the development of the situation, the new balance of forces, and, even if he does not want restructuring in his country, I think that his desire to make major changes is clear....

[Niedergang] What conclusions did you draw from your talks in Caracas with the Central American leaders? (Footnote) (This interview took place just before the summit of the five Central American heads of state in El Salvador, the announcement of Nicaragua's concessions, and the revival of the regional peace plan)

[Perez] If Daniel Ortega maintains the viewpoints he put forward here, I am sure that real dialogue is possible. However, the real problem is between the United States and the Sandinists. If Washington adopts an understanding attitude and trusts the Central American presidents and the leaders of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, then I am sure that we will see light at the end of the tunnel.

[Niedergang] Do you think that the Sandinists are determined to democratize their regime?

[Perez] I would say more: They do not have a choice. The situation in their country has reached desperate limits. Their economy is in ruins. The United States, for its part, must accept that the policy it followed with regard to Nicaragua has failed. Faced with this situation, the democratic solution is the only answer. However, there will be no political solution to the Central American conflicts if the United States and the USSR do not withdraw from the scene.

[Nicaragua] Have you not returned to lead a Venezuela which is very different from what it was in the seventies, and which is in the throes of a crisis?

[Perez] Undoubtedly. But it is also a better prepared and better developed Venezuela. The cultural standard has increased considerably. We now have very competent cadres in all sectors for tackling the challenges of modern society. We have fewer financial resources but more

human resources. I would say that the situation will be difficult in the short term but, in 1 or 2 years, we should be able to really revive our growth.

[Niedergang] Isn't the objective of Latin American integration encountering very strong individualism and nationalism? Isn't a big country like Mexico tempted to settle its problems with the United States directly?

[Perez] That temptation has existed in all Latin American countries and we have paid a very high price for it. Regarding Mexico, the situation is even more complex because of the creation of a community between the United States and Canada. It must choose either to join it or not. I think relations between Mexico and the United States will always be exceptional for obvious reasons. But the Mexican revolution at the beginning of this century was aimed primarily at asserting Mexico's identity. That is the very essence of the revolution. It could not continue if Mexico joined a process of integration with the United States. Mexico now needs Latin American integration and we need Mexico.

Tejera Comments on Manley Victory in Jamaica

PA1802191289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1751 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 14 February (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera said today that Michael Manley's victory in the Jamaican elections was due to "the failure of the neoliberal economic model promoted by the United States" that was implemented by former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

The foreign minister added that Manley was a "new man," in a clear reference to the Jamaican leader's movement toward more moderate positions. During Manley's first administration (1972-1980) his policies were clearly leftist, and his government had close ties with Cuba.

Tejera and Presidential Secretariat Minister Reinaldo Figueroa Planchart, who is considered President Carlos Andres Perez' right-hand man, sent the Venezuelan Government's official congratulations to Manley for his sweeping victory over Seaga in last week's elections.

Manley and Perez are friends and members of the Socialist International. Tejera's statements come at a time when economic observers are saying Perez' economic plan has "neoliberal" characteristics.

Presidency Secretary on Foreign Investments

PA2002025489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Report by Marbella Molina]

[Text] Secretary of the Presidency Reinaldo Figueroa has announced that the country has received over $2 billion in new foreign investments, which by the end of 1991 will yield high foreign exchange revenues.

[Begin Figueroa recording] Investments have surpassed $2 billion, and we expect them to yield a similar amount by the end of 1991. [end recording]

This statement was made at the end of a private meeting held by cabinet ministers with members of the board of directors of the Society of the Americas, who were informed about the country's economic situation. The directors were optimistic after they learned about the outlook for the country.

David Rockefeller, president of the Society of the Americas, presented a general analysis of our hemisphere in a speech.

(Gustavo Cisneros), president of the Diego Cisneros Organization and adviser to the Society of the Americas, a U.S. institution whose mission is to promote and understand contemporary policies and current economic and social issues in our nations, announced that the investment opportunities of this distinguished business group will be discussed tomorrow.

[Begin (Cisneros) recording] The ministers made a really excellent and clear presentation. The impression they created on all the members of the Society of the Americas was a very good one. The ministers are a human group; they will be a really good cabinet. We have an excellent exports-oriented cabinet. [end recording]

These important men, most of them heads of businesses, will continue their talks behind closed doors tomorrow. They will end their visit with an afternoon news conference that will be hosted by David Rockefeller, president of the Society of the Americas.

Banking Sector Reports 1988 Net Profit

PA1902124689 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 Feb 89 p 2-1

[Summary] The Venezuelan Banking Association has reported that the banking system achieved an unprecedented net profit of 8.2552 trillion bolivars in 1988, almost doubling the profit obtained in 1987. Out of this total, commercial banks had a net profit of 6.1569 trillion bolivars, mortgage banks 485.2 billion, financial societies 974.2 billion, and financial leasing companies 638.9 billion.

7 Killed, 22 Injured in San Felipe Prison Riot

PA2002195989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1911 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 20 Feb (REUTER)—Officials of San Felipe Prison in northern Venezuela, where convicts were holding a mother and her daughter hostage, reported 7 convicts were killed and 22 injured during a prison riot.

They reported that dozens of policemen, soldiers, and national guardsmen surrounded the prison, 277 km west of Caracas, where the prisoners rioted yesterday.

A group of Interior Ministry officials, headed by General German Sepulveda Sierra, arrived at the prison this morning.

Sepulveda said in a radio interview that the convicts were holding hostage a woman and her 6-month-old daughter. He did not mention the prisoners' demands or whether the authorities planned to negotiate with them.

It is not known how the woman and her child were taken hostage or why they were in the prison.

Freddy Mayorga, director of prisons of the Interior Ministry, told REUTER in Caracas that the disturbances began after visiting hours yesterday afternoon when a group of convicts refused to submit to the mandatory inspection before going back to their cells.

The civil guardsmen were called after the prison guards admitted they could not control the situation.

He said all the deaths were a result of asphyxiation and that none of the prisoners was killed by the security forces.

New Inland Oil Deposit Discovered in Zulia
PA1802163889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Summary] A new inland light crude oil deposit was discovered by Maraven [subsidiary of Petroven] on the eastern coast of Maracaibo Lake, Zulia State. The discovery occurred at the Tomoporo well, near the town of Ceuta. According to Maraven's initial tests, potential production is 3,000 barrels of light crude oil daily. This is the first time an inland deposit of light crude was found near the eastern coast of Maracaibo Lake.